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*By J. B. Bunt*  
HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

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REPORT  
ON THE  
PALK MANUSCRIPTS

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IN THE POSSESSION OF MRS. BANNATYNE,  
OF HALDON, DEVON.

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA



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TO VNU  
AIRBORNE

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THIS report has been prepared for the Commissioners,  
at the suggestion and with the co-operation of the India Office,  
by Colonel H. D. Love, R.E. (retired), who has also compiled the  
index.

It is suggested that for reference purposes it be numbered 74.

# THE PALK MANUSCRIPTS

IN THE POSSESSION OF MRS. BANNATYNE  
OF HALDON, DEVON.

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THE Palk Manuscripts in the possession of Mrs. Bannatyne consist mainly of letters addressed to Sir Robert Palk from the time when he relinquished the governorship of Madras in 1767 down to the end of 1786. They were written by all sorts and conditions of people—governors, councillors, native princes, naval and military officers, civil servants, native officials and private persons. The majority of the communications were sent from Fort St. George, Madras, but some are from other parts of the Southern Presidency, some from Bengal, and a few from Bombay. Written as they were in stirring times, most of them before the publication of Indian newspapers was begun, they are full of political and military intelligence, which is imparted free from the restrictions and reservations imposed on official correspondence with the Court of Directors. After his return to England Palk aided several of his relations and the sons of many friends to begin life in India by advancing money to them and furnishing them with recommendations. All these correspond with him, give their early impressions of the country, and keep him informed of local events. The Palk Papers thus supply many details of social life in India, regarding which official documents are naturally silent. The collection contains certain letters from Palk himself, most of which were addressed to his friend William Martin Goodlad, one of the Secretaries to the Government of Madras. On Goodlad's death these communications were returned to their author, and were preserved by him. There are a few papers anterior to 1767, the most important of which is a letter of 1755 from Colonel Stringer Lawrence, embodying a narrative of his campaigns against the French.

After the elimination of a number of business papers, such as Bills of Exchange and Respondentia Bonds, there remain 470 documents, the contents of which are described in subsequent pages of this report. From 1767 to 1776 the correspondence is copious. It diminishes in volume between 1777 and 1780, and from 1781 to 1783 there is scarcely an Indian letter. In 1784 the tide flows again, but at the end of 1786 the correspondence terminates abruptly. That letters were written and received during the period of scarcity is undoubted, though their ultimate fate is unknown. Part of the original collection found its way in 1894 to the British Museum, where it is preserved in four volumes (*Additional MSS.* 34,685–88).

The first of these volumes contains business documents of no importance; the second comprises Indian letters to Palk of 1768 and 1769 with a few of later date down to 1774; the third consists of duplicates of despatches from the Court of Directors to the Government of Madras between 1762 and 1765; and the fourth of copies of official letters from Fort St. George to the Court from 1763 to 1767. The chief interest lies in the second volume. Sundry letters from Robert Palk are to be found in the Warren Hastings correspondence preserved in the British Museum (*Addl. MSS.* 29,132—94).<sup>(1)</sup>

Some knowledge of Palk's singular career is indispensable for a thorough comprehension of the documents in Mrs. Bannatyne's collection. The following brief sketch embraces those members of his family who are mentioned in the correspondence.

Robert Palk came of yeoman stock established at Ashburton, Devon. The family homestead was Lower Headborough, the first farm out of Ashburton on the road to Buckland-in-the-Moor, and within half a mile of the town. In 1679 Walter Palk, of Ashburton, left the reversion of his lands to his nephew Walter (*b.* 1659), son of Thomas Palk.<sup>(2)</sup> This second Walter was succeeded by his eldest son Walter (*b.* 1686), his other children being Jonathan, Thomas and Grace. The third Walter married Frances Abraham at Buckland-in-the-Moor, and had three children, Walter (*b.* 1714), Robert (*b.* 1717), the subject of this notice, and Grace. The fourth Walter married in succession Thomasine Widdicombe, of Priestaford, Ashburton, her sister Mary Widdicombe, and Mary Mugford, by all of whom he had children. His brother Robert, afterwards Governor of Madras, married Anne Vansittart, to whom reference will be made later, and his sister Grace became the wife of Richard Welland. Two of the Welland boys, nephews of Robert Palk, served in India. Among the numerous offspring of the fourth Walter were Walter (*b.* 1742), afterwards M.P. for Ashburton; Robert (*b.* 1744), who joined the Bengal civil service; Thomas (*b. cir.*

(1) The Warren Hastings Correspondence contains 23 letters (excluding duplicates) from Robert Palk, viz:—

<i>Addl. MSS.</i>	29132	Letters dated	23 June, 1769; 23 Mar., 1770; 9 April, 1771.
"	29133	" "	7 Ap., 1772; 8 Feb. and 8 Ap., 1773.
"	29134	" "	22 Mar., 1774.
"	29135	" "	25 Dec., 1774.
"	29136	" "	4/21 Feb., 12 Ap., 19 Nov., 12 Dec. and 13 Dec., 1775.
"	29138	" "	21 Dec., 24 Dec. and 28 Dec., 1776.
"	29140	" "	1 May, 1778.
"	29144	" "	27 Mar., 1780.
"	29145	" "	20 Ap., 1780.
"	29149	" "	30 May, 1781.
"	29154	" "	26 June, 1782.
"	29155	" "	1 July, 1782.
"	29193	" "	N.D. [ <i>cir.</i> Nov., 1773].

All the above letters are to Hastings, excepting that of the 26th June, 1782, which is addressed to Major Scott, Hastings's agent in England. The final volume (*Addl. MSS.* 29,193) contains also an undated letter from Robert Palk, jun., to William Aldersey regarding the arrest of Nandkumar.

(2) *Devonshire Wills*, C. Worthy, 1896.



1750), who came to Madras a cadet, but was later transferred to the civil service; Grace, who married Nicholas Tripe of Ashburton; and Jonathan, vicar of Ilington. Mention is made also of two brothers, Lieut. Thomas Palk and Ensign John Palk of the Madras army, who appear to have been grandsons of one of Sir Robert Palk's uncles. They died together while campaigning in the Northern Circars. Other Indian connections of Sir Robert were Thomas Abraham, a Bengal civil servant, who was a member of his mother's family, and several of the Vansittarts, his wife's relations.

It is said that Robert Palk was born at Ambrooke, in the parish of Ipplepen, which was the property of the Neyle family, but the statement needs verification. Certain it is that he was baptized at the Old Mission House, Ashburton, on the 16th December, 1717. He received his early education at Ashburton Grammar School, a very ancient foundation, matriculated at Wadham College, Oxford, in 1736, and graduated three years later. After being ordained deacon the Rev. Robert Palk was appointed a naval chaplain, and in 1747 he accompanied Boscawen's expedition to the East Indies as chaplain to the Admiral. He arrived at Fort St. David in July, 1748, and was present at the unsuccessful siege of Pondicherry. In November news reached India of the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, but though hostilities ceased, the fleet remained on the Coast. At the beginning of the following year an incident occurred which determined Palk's future career. The Rev. Francis Fordyce, the Company's chaplain at Fort St. David, a notoriously quarrelsome and ill-tempered man, publicly insulted Robert Clive, and blows were exchanged between them in the streets of Cuddalore. An enquiry was held by the Governor and Council with the result that Fordyce was suspended as being "a meddling mischievous person." Palk was invited to enter the Company's service as chaplain pending the approval of the Directors, and the Admiral consented to his transfer. This "very worthy and able Divine" assumed his new duties on the 1st April, 1749.

Meanwhile the Directors sent out the Rev. George Swynfen as a second chaplain for the Coast, and though they approved of Palk's appointment, decided that their own nominee should be the senior. In October, 1750, the fleet sailed for Bombay *en route* for England, and Palk accompanied it with the intention of formally resigning His Majesty's service and obtaining a regular engagement from the Company. On reaching Bombay in March, 1751, he heard of Swynfen's death, and returned at once to Fort St. David, where he was reinstated. Fort St. George, which had been in the possession of the French from 1746, was restored in 1749, and in April, 1752, the seat of Government was transferred from Fort St. David to Madras, Palk accompanying the President and Council thither. In December, 1751, the Directors, having heard of Palk's departure

in the preceding year, but not of his return, nominated two chaplains for the Coast, the Rev. Samuel Staveley and the Rev. Thomas Colefax. The arrival of these gentlemen in June, 1752, left no vacancy for Palk. The Madras Government, however, quickly found another place for him. The Consultation Book for August contains the following :—

“The account of the army in camp having been kept in an irregular manner, which creates confusion, ’tis agreed that the Rev. Robert Palk be appointed Paymaster and Commissary in the Field at the rate of 10s. a day salary and Rs. 5 a day batta.”

At this juncture Colefax died, and Palk continued to perform clerical duties intermittently in addition to his special work. That work brought him into intimate relations with Major Stringer Lawrence, who commanded the army operating against the French in the southern districts. On two occasions, in April, 1753, and May, 1754, Palk was sent to the Court of Tanjore, where he successfully negotiated with the Raja for aid in troops and money ; and in January, 1754, he was deputed with Henry Vansittart to meet the French commissaries at Sadras and arrange a suspension of hostilities. No agreement was then effected, but at the end of the year Palk and Vansittart went to Pondicherry and returned with a provisional treaty of peace. The Government of Madras were so well satisfied with Palk’s political work that they presented him with a diamond ring of the value of 1,000 pagodas.

At this period Robert Orme, the future historian of the war with the French in India, was a member of the Fort St. George Council. The following extract from a confidential letter, dated 26th October, 1755, addressed by him to John Payne, one of the Directors, throws light on Palk’s character and duties :—

“Mr. Palk, a gentleman left in India by Mr. Boscawen and made chaplain at St. David, was, at the time I left India,<sup>(1)</sup> in high favour with Mr. Saunders :<sup>(2)</sup> he was one of his family. It is long since this gentleman had thrown aside the learning of ancient or Christian books to study the tempers of mankind, in which he is indeed a great proficient, and as great a one in adapting himself to them, I must say, with decency. His character as a clergyman admitted him to the conciliation of disputes, and where he did not succeed, his intentions were rewarded with the graceful name of a Peace Maker. I had perceiv’d various instances of his address in the management of persons at variance with another, and suppressed what was my rising sentiment in favour of the general one. Mr. Palk was chose by Mr. Saunders to go to camp, under the name of a Commissary design’d to retrench expences, but with the real view of softning and managing Colonel Lawrence’s warm and

(1) In 1753, when Orme visited England in company with Clive.

(2) Thomas Saunders, President and Governor, first at Fort St. David and afterwards at Fort St. George, from Sept., 1750, to Jan., 1755.

sudden temper in the contests then subsisting between him and Mr. Saunders. How well he fulfill'd this commission I would willingly throw a veil over, but the facts are known to all, and do not seem disavowed by himself. He received from Colonel Lawrence most beneficial employs in the camp, and by his means in other services, which have, in the time of my voyage, set him independant in the world, with at least 10,000*l.* from two he came with into India. And from a month after his arrival in camp, Mr. Saunders received no further tokens of his attention or respect. Colonel Lawrence became all in all with Mr. Palk.

"The influence which I have above described Mr. Palk to have over the greatest part of the community of which he is the pastor shone forth eminently now in their notions of the Governor. Mr. Palk blamed him: all the world did so too. Mr. Palk gave witness to a more than heroick character in Colonel Lawrence: he became immediately a hero of the first order."<sup>(1)</sup>

Lawrence and Palk met Nawab Muhammad Ali at Arcot in August, 1755, and attended him at his triumphal entry into his capital. In the preceding February the Directors had nominated a Select Committee of eight members at Fort St. George to communicate with their own Secret Committee on military and political topics, and they settled that the first vacancy should be filled by the Rev. Robert Palk. An opening occurred at once by the death of Colonel Caroline Scott, Engineer General, and Palk occupied it in September. In December, however, the Court with accustomed vacillation decreed that he should confine himself to Church work and be posted to Fort St. David. On receipt of these instructions in 1756, Palk announced his intention of leaving for England, but asked for time to wind up his affairs. With the sanction of Mr. Pigot's Government he remained at Fort St. George until August, 1758, exercising his various functions as chaplain, paymaster of the forces and member of the Select Committee.

In company with Orme, Palk sailed in the *Grantham*, Indianman. The ship was captured by the French, who landed the passengers at the Cape and released them on parole. Palk reached England in 1759, bearing letters from the Nawab of Arcot to the King and the Company. His personality, ability and address produced such an effect on the Directors that they penned the following lines in their despatch of the 15th February, 1760:—

"We have fixed upon Mr. Robert Palk to succeed Mr. Pigot in the Government whenever it shall become vacant by the resignation or decease of that gentleman, being fully convinced his ability and experience will be of great service to the Company both before and after his succession to the Government, especially as affairs are at present circumstanced."

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(1) *Orme MSS.*, vol. 28, preserved in the India Office.



On the 14th November, 1760, arms were granted to "Robert Palk of Headborough in the County of Devon,"<sup>(1)</sup> and in the following February he married Anne, daughter of Arthur Vansittart of Shottesbrook Park, Berks., and sister of his old friend and former colleague Henry Vansittart, who had meanwhile become Governor of Bengal. Palk sailed in March, 1761, with Major-General Stringer Lawrence as a fellow-passenger, arrived at Madras in October, and took his seat as Third of Council with the duties of Export Warehousekeeper. On the resignation of Governor Pigot on the 14th November, 1763, Palk assumed the office of President, occupying the Chair until the 25th January, 1767. His administration was popular and comparatively peaceful, the chief events being the suppression in 1764 of Yusuf Khan's rebellion in Madura, and the occupation of the Circars, followed by the Treaty of Hyderabad, in 1766. Clive had obtained from the Mogul in 1765 a free gift to the Company of the five coast districts north of the Kistna which were known as the Northern Circars. They were ruled by Nizam Ali, Subahdar of the Deccan, who had granted one of them, the Guntūr Circar, to his brother Basālat Jang. Brig.-General John Caillaud, Lawrence's successor, took possession of the districts without serious opposition in 1766. The Nizam was naturally aggrieved at his deprivation of territory, and prepared to invade the Carnatic. Palk, a man of peace, deemed it prudent to placate him, and Caillaud negotiated a settlement at Hyderabad. By the Treaty of the 12th November, 1766, the Madras Government agreed to pay an annual rent of eight lakhs of rupees for the Circars, to leave Basālat Jang in possession of Guntūr for the term of his life, and to afford aid to the Nizam in the settlement of his own affairs. This last vague condition led, after Palk's departure, to war with Haidar Ali.

Palk resigned the Chair to Charles Bourchier in January, 1767, and sailed for England in the *Lord Camden*, accompanied by his wife and two children, Anne (Nancy) born in 1764, and Lawrence, so named after Palk's friend the General, born early in 1766. The ex-Governor reached England on the 13th July, 1767, and was well received by both the King and the Court of Directors<sup>(2)</sup> (No. 38). His long residence in India had enabled him to acquire more than a competence. While placing the interests of his employers first, Palk had not entirely neglected his own. The fortune with which he retired was not all derived from his official emoluments. As Paymaster of the Army and the holder of a bullock-contract granted him by Clive, he had had early opportunities of making money, and those opportunities increased with his advancement in the service. He was interested in private trade, a practice which was recognized by the Company. The custom of the time permitted the surrep-

(1) Polwhele's *History of Devonshire*, 1793 and 1797.

(2) *British Museum, Addl. MSS.*, 34,685, Robert Palk to "Jimmy" [James Bourchier], dated—Nov., 1767.

titious receipt of presents by all public servants who could command them. Palk admits in one of his letters that he accepted gifts of money from prospective renters of lands, but he takes credit to himself for never having solicited a present. The Nawab had much to gain from a Governor, and though Palk resisted pressure to attack Tanjore, he rendered valuable aid at Madura, and Muhammad Ali probably attested his gratitude in the usual manner. The conclusion of treaties furnished other facilities. According to John Andrews, a senior civil servant who was deputed in January, 1769, to arrange terms with Haidar, Palk received from the Nizam a lakh of pagodas and Caillaud Pags. 60,000 for negotiating the Treaty of Hyderabad of 1766.<sup>(1)</sup>

After visiting his relations in Devonshire Palk took a house in Spring Gardens, and entered Parliament as member for Ashburton. In 1769 he purchased the Haldon estate near Exeter. The house had been built by Sir George Chudleigh about 1720. After his death in 1738 the property passed in succession to Sir John Chichester, Mrs. Basset, Mr. John Jones and Mr. William Webber.<sup>(2)</sup> A friend writing to Palk in December, 1769, congratulates him on the cheapness of his purchase, and mentions that Mr. Webber had given Mr. Jones 11,500*l.* for it.<sup>(3)</sup> Palk made many improvements; laid down floors of Indian redwood, planted trees in the park, and gradually acquired adjacent land. A daughter Catherine (Kitty) was born to the Palks on New Year's day, 1768, and another, named Emelia, in 1774. Both died during adolescence.

Though he never joined the Company's Directorate, Robert Palk exercised influence on Indian affairs through Laurence Sullivan and other friends. When not following the pursuits of a country gentleman at Haldon he resided in London, where he occupied a house in Park Place, St. James's, moving in 1775 to Bruton Street. He re-entered Parliament in 1774 and represented Ashburton until 1787. His friend Stringer Lawrence was his frequent, if not permanent, guest until the General died in London in 1775. Lawrence was buried in the church of Dunchideock by Haldon, which contains a monument to his memory. Palk commemorated him by erecting a turreted and battlemented tower, triangular in plan, on the summit of Haldon Hill, and within the park. It is known as the Belvidere. The principal room on the lowest of its three floors contains a marble statue of Lawrence, and mural tablets are inscribed with a recital in English, Latin and Persian of his military exploits. It was at Haldon House that a conference took place in September, 1776, between Robert Palk, George Vansittart, General Caillaud, Mr. Pechell and Colonel Maclean to discuss

(1) *British Museum, Addl. MSS.*, 34,686, Charles Bouchier to Robert Palk, dated 10th March, 1769.

(2) Polwhele's *History of Devonshire*, which contains a full-page engraving of the mansion.

(3) *British Museum, Addl. MSS.*, 34,686.

the conditions to be obtained from Lord North as the price of resignation by Hastings of the office of Governor General.

On the 19th June, 1782, Robert Palk was created a baronet. His only son Lawrence, after leaving Oxford, travelled on the Continent. Some of the son's letters written in the course of the tour have been preserved. During his absence from England in 1786 his eldest sister Anne became the wife of Sir Bourchier Wrey, Bt., and the youngest, Emelia, died. Lady Palk expired in 1788 at the age of 50. Her husband survived her ten years. Sir Robert was buried in Dunchideock church,<sup>(1)</sup> but the remains were removed many years later to a vault outside the building. A simple tablet near the monument to Stringer Lawrence records the names of himself and eight members of his family.

The documents in Mrs. Bannatyne's collection are calendared at the end of this report. The earliest (No. 1) is an autograph letter from Colonel Stringer Lawrence to Admiral Charles Watson, Commander-in-Chief of the East India squadron, dated Fort St. George, 8th October, 1755, embodying Lawrence's "Narrative" of his campaigns of 1752-1754. The letter, which is bound in book form, contains 221 quarto pages of manuscript. Admiral Watson, who had brought out Adlercron's Regiment, the 39th Foot, in 1754, was at Madras on the date of the letter, and he sailed two days later for Bombay on a mission to suppress the pirates of the Malabar coast and destroy the stronghold at Gheriah or Viziadrag of their chief Angria. The narrative was perhaps handed to the Admiral by Lawrence to relieve the tedium of the voyage. Other MS. copies of the account exist, one in the King's Library of the British Museum,<sup>(2)</sup> and one in the Orme collection at the India Office.<sup>(3)</sup> The narrative was edited and published by R. O. Cambridge in his *Account of the War in India*, and, as that work is accessible, it is unnecessary to do more than indicate the principal variations between Mrs. Bannatyne's MS. and the printed account (*Vide* No. 1 in the Calendar of MSS.)

Stringer Lawrence, the "Father of the Indian Army," was born in 1698, and became an Ensign in Clayton's Regiment, now the West Yorks. After twenty years' service, during which he was actively engaged in Spain and Flanders and in the Highland rising of 1745, he retired as Captain, joined the East India Company, and at the age of 49 embarked for Madras in February, 1747, to be Major of the Fort St. George garrison. Madras having been captured by the French in 1746, Lawrence landed, after a voyage of eleven months, at Fort St. David,

(1) The church contains a monument to one of Sir Robert Palk's predecessors in the Government of Madras, Aaron Baker, of Bowhay, who died in 1683. Baker entered the Company's service as Factor in 1633, and after being President at Bantam in Java from 1640, was transferred with the seat of government in 1652 to Fort St. George, where he ruled until 1655. His house at Bowhay, near Dunchideock, is still standing.

(2) *Brit. Mus. MS.* 195, attributed to Captain John Caillaud.

(3) *Orme MSS.*, vol. 13.



where he was given a seat in Council. He reorganized and disciplined the seven independent European companies, framed a code of military law, and formed the body of native peons into companies of sepoys. On the arrival of Boscawen's expedition he commanded the Company's troops in the attack on Pondicherry, when he was taken prisoner. Released at the suspension of hostilities, he was one of the Commissaries appointed to receive Fort St. George from the French, and on the transfer of the Presidency to Madras he became Deputy Governor of Fort St. David. In 1750 Lawrence resigned and went to England, but the Directors induced him to return immediately as Commander-in-Chief of all the Company's forces in India.

Landing at Madras in March, 1752, Lawrence took command of the army proceeding to relieve Trichinopoly, where Muhammad Ali, the claimant supported by the British for the possession of the Carnatic, was besieged by the French and their nominee Chanda Sahib. Marathas, Mysoreans and Tanjoreans took part in the conflict on one side or the other. The relief was accomplished, and within two months d'Auteuil had surrendered to Clive at Valikonda, and Law to Lawrence at Srirangam. Chanda Sahib fell into the hands of the Tanjoreans and was executed. Further fighting took place near Pondicherry, de Kerjean being defeated at Bahour. From April to November, 1753, Lawrence and his lieutenants, Major James Killpatrick and Captain John Caillaud, were engaged in numerous actions in the vicinity of Trichinopoly. At the battles of the Golden Rock the French suffered defeat on three occasions. After ineffectual negotiations for peace in January, 1754, the struggle was renewed around Trichinopoly with varying fortune until October, when a suspension of arms was agreed to. Peace followed at the end of the year; Dupleix was recalled, and Lawrence received a commission as Lieut.-Colonel from the King and a sword of honour from the Company. Orme thus writes of Lawrence in a confidential letter to Payne of 1755 :—

“Lawrence in his military command must have everything dependant on his own will, or that will which, infused into him by others, he is taught to think his own. He is accessible, sadly accessible, from the side of his vanity, which indulges itself in frequent and honorable commemoration of his exploits. Every designing man under him had the recommendation of himself in his own power by his behaviour to his General. Now amongst these some good, some very indifferent, got ascendancy over the old gentleman. These, all these, must be served and promoted without restriction. The contempt which Lawrence always expressed for lucrative views he verified in his own conduct, altho' he saw not into other men, when his favourites, acting from no other motives. His resolves are always violently hurried on.”<sup>(1)</sup>

On the cessation of hostilities Lawrence was superseded by

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(1) *Orme MSS.*, vol. 28, Orme to Payne, 26th Oct., 1755.



his senior, Colonel John Adlercron, a newly arrived King's officer, who remained in India three years. In 1757 war again broke out between France and England. Lally captured Fort St. David in 1758, and at the end of the year advanced on Madras. Lawrence took charge of the defences and successfully resisted a siege of upwards of two months. In April, 1759, he visited England for the recovery of his health, but returned in 1761 in company with Palk, and took his seat as Second of Council with the rank of Major-General. From this time his duties were administrative until his retirement in April, 1766. He received a pension from the Company, an annuity from Clive, and an annual grant from the Nawab of the Carnatic. At his death in 1775 the Company erected a monument to his memory in Westminster Abbey bearing the legend, "Discipline established, fortresses protected, French and Indian armies defeated, and peace concluded in the Carnatic." A portrait of Lawrence in company with Nawab Muhammad Ali hangs in the Banqueting Hall of Government House, Madras. A later picture by Gainsborough is in the National Portrait Gallery.

Other early documents preserved by Sir Robert Palk include a lively letter (No. 2) from John Pye, one of the Navy agents; an order from the Crown (No. 4) based on the Treaty of Paris of 1763; an application (No. 5) in Latin from a Portuguese missionary, and letters (No. 6) from the Nawab of the Carnatic to the King and the Company.

On Palk's departure from India in January, 1767, the regular stream of letters begins. The ex-Governor's principal correspondents during Charles Bouchier's administration were the new President himself, and his brother James Bouchier, a prominent civil servant; Colonel John Call, Chief Engineer and member of Council, who was also a Field Deputy in the first Mysore war; William Martin Goodlad, the Civil Secretary, a regular correspondent until his death in 1773; John Maxwell Stone, the Secretary in the Military and Political Department; Nawab Walajah of the Carnatic; Nicholas Morse, who was Governor when Madras capitulated to the French in 1746, but had since become head of a house of agency; Josias Du Pré, a member of the Council and Bouchier's successor; Chokappa Chetti, one of the Company's Merchants for the annual "Investment" in the manufacture of cotton fabrics for export; John Pybus, who had been a volunteer with Clive in the capture and subsequent defence of Arcot in 1751; George Smith, a free-merchant; Henry Brooke, a civil servant, who later had a share in the deposition of Lord Pigot; Thomas Palk, nephew of the late Governor and a cadet of 1768, who saw active service in Mysore but was afterwards transferred to the civil branch; Captain Thomas Madge, commanding a battalion of native infantry in the Northern Circars, and Lieut. Thomas Palk, a subaltern of Madge's corps and a distant cousin of Robert Palk. Bengal news is communicated by George Vansittart and Robert

Palk, jun., the ex-Governor's brother-in-law and nephew respectively. As time passes other Indian correspondents, such as Warren Hastings, Alexander Wynch, Gilbert Ironside, James Rennell, Henry Vansittart, jun., etc., come forward, while letters from Laurence Sullivan in England throw light on the character of a man who long exercised a potent influence over the affairs of the East India Company.

Bourchier's administration was mainly occupied with the Mysore war. His first letter to Palk deals, however, with a domestic event. Mrs. Palk's brother George Vansittart and Robert Palk, jun., both Bengal civil servants, had come down from Calcutta to bid farewell to their departing relations. There had arrived from England a little earlier a Miss Sarah Stonhouse, daughter of the Rev. Sir James Stonhouse, who was successively physician, clerk in holy orders, and baronet. The young lady was a distant connection of Mrs. Palk and George Vansittart, whose mother was Martha, daughter of Sir John Stonhouse, an earlier baronet. The attractions of Miss Sarah were considerable, and James Bourchier, George Vansittart and the younger Robert Palk all aspired to her hand. Vansittart proved to be the successful suitor, and he went back to Bengal an engaged man. James Bourchier was grievously disappointed, and Robert Palk consoled himself at a later date with the lady's younger sister Lucia. Charles Bourchier, who deemed Sarah artificial, writes (No. 21) a full account of the episode, apprehensive that the elder Palk will not be well pleased with the Vansittart-Stonhouse match.

The Mysore war is generally attributed to the Treaty of Hyderabad, though Palk contests this view. The article relating to British assistance for the Nizam was well understood to imply military support against Haidar Ali. The Marathas were prepared to attack Mysore, and although no formal agreement with them subsisted, the three powers acted as confederates. The Marathas under the Peshwa Mādhu Rao were first in the field and gained some success in the northern part of Haidar's dominions. A British force assembled under Colonel Joseph Smith, who was directed to unite with the Hyderabad army commanded by Nizam Ali in person, and attack Bangalore from the north-east. Haidar quickly succeeded in buying off the Marathas, and in inducing the Nizam to change sides. The situation was thus completely altered. Instead of being one of three confederates acting against Mysore, the British found themselves alone against two allied powers. Haidar and the Nizam entered the Carnatic in August, 1767, and battles were fought at Changama and Trinomalai in which the British were victorious. Detached bodies of hostile cavalry, however, plundered the country, and one of them under Tipu made a raid on Madras itself in September. In December the Nizam's dominions were threatened on the east by a British force from the Circars under Colonel Simon Hart. It was joined by a

detachment from Bengal under Colonel Joseph Peach, who took command. The approach of this body to Hyderabad so alarmed the Nizam that he sent his minister and commander-in-chief, Rukn-ud-daula, to Madras to sue for peace. A treaty was signed on the 23rd February, 1768, by which the Nizam paid an indemnity, while the annual tribute for the Circars was reduced in amount.

Haidar then remained the only enemy. The British army was formed in two divisions : one under Colonel Joseph Smith, a capable officer, was established at Kolar, while the other under Colonel John Wood acted in the Bāramahal. Smith's operations were hampered by the interference of the Field Deputies, John Call and George Mackay, but Wood was successful in reducing fort after fort. On marching to rejoin Smith in Mysore Wood fought a severe action at Mulbāgal, in which both sides sustained heavy losses. Bouchier summoned Smith to Council, and Wood, who took command, displayed incapacity and met with a reverse near Hosur. He was recalled in December, 1768, and was subsequently tried by court-martial. Haidar penetrated into the Bāramahal and rapidly recovered his forts from the scattered detachments left in them. Both sides, however, desired peace ; Haidar through fear of the Marathas, and because he dared not meet Smith in pitched battle ; the Madras Government because of the ruinous cost of the war. Negotiations took place early in 1769 without result. Haidar then entered the Carnatic, which he laid waste with fire and sword. Smith, who had resumed command in February, 1769, pursued him, but through want of cavalry, was unable to bring him to action. By forced marches Haidar reached St. Thomas's Mount, eight miles from Madras, and intimated his willingness to negotiate, provided Smith, who was close behind him, was ordered to halt. Josias Du Pré, the second member of Council, met Haidar at the Mount, and a treaty was signed on the 3rd April. The common assertion is that the enemy dictated peace at the gates of Madras, though the only dictation was the naming of the envoy. Bouchier, it is true, feared for the safety of the Black Town, but Haidar was far more afraid of attack by Smith, and if the latter had been permitted to advance, the usurper would certainly have decamped after doing as much damage as possible. The terms of peace were moderate ; a defensive alliance between the British and Mysore, and mutual restoration of conquests and prisoners. Haidar refused to recognize Walajah as a party to the treaty, nor would the Nawab assent to its terms.

The above outline will elucidate the descriptions and allusions contained in the letters of the period. In a draft letter (No. 40) addressed to Mr. S. — probably Thomas Saunders, who was Deputy Chairman in 1767—Robert Palk contends that the war originated, not in the Treaty of Hyderabad, but in the inveterate hatred which Haidar bore towards Muhammad Ali, and his consequent enmity to the British as the Nawab's supporters. His hostility was disclosed by his correspondence with the rebel



Yusuf Khan, which fell into English hands after the capture of Madura in 1764; by his sowing disaffection among the poligars of Tinnevely; and by his overtures to the Nizam in 1765, when the latter was unfriendly to Fort St. George. Haidar was at that time flushed with successes over the Marathas, and he repelled the advances which Palk made. The Governor resolved to obtain the alliance of the Nizam, and the treaty of 1766 was arranged, which gave to the Company the peaceable possession of the Circars. It was then expected that a combined expedition would quickly secure the passes into the Carnatic and confine Haidar to Mysore. The scheme eventually developed, however, into a design for his complete overthrow.

An important letter (No. 19) from Colonel John Call deals with the opening phases of the war and the movements of the troops of the three allies. Call considers the Nizam's action half-hearted, and he justly apprehends that both the Deccan ruler and the Marathas may come to terms with the Mysore usurper. He thinks that a binding agreement to prosecute the war to a successful termination should be made between the allies, and he encloses a review of the situation with the terms of a draft treaty framed by himself. He places no reliance on the Marathas, and contemplates cooperation with Bengal against them as soon as Haidar shall have been overthrown. He goes on to narrate the measures taken by Government for the suppression of the insurgent poligars in Madura and Tinnevely, and discusses arrangements for the payment of the Nawab's debt to his private creditors. In a subsequent letter (No. 25) Call refers to the irresolution of Nizam Ali and the successful progress of the Marathas. Further letters from Call, dated 7th August, 1768, and 26th June, 1769, will be found in *British Museum, Addl. MSS.*, 34,686.

Letters from John M. Stone (No. 29) and John Pybus (No. 30) describe the progress of operations. Tipu's raid on Madras is mentioned (No. 35) by a native correspondent. Captain Thomas Madge, who accompanied Colonel Hart's expedition from the Circars, gives an account (No. 42) of the capture of Khammamett, the arrival of Colonel Peach from Bengal, the advance to Warangal and the submission of Nizam Ali. Lieut. Thomas Palk, who was with Madge, refers (No. 59) to Colonel Wood's successes in the Bāramahal and his action with Haidar at Mulbāgal on the 4th October, 1768. He also alludes to the tragic end of Captain Michael Gee, Colonel Smith's aide-de-camp. About this time Lieut. Palk's cousin and namesake, Thomas Palk,<sup>(1)</sup> arrived from England. An account of his voyage is given in a letter (No. 49) to his uncle Robert Palk, who was at first unsuccessful in obtaining a writership for him. Tom Palk was permitted to join Colonel Smith's division of the army at Kolar, and was placed under the care of Captain Hector Mackay.

(1) This Thomas Palk will, in accordance with his uncle's practice, be henceforward designated Tom Palk to distinguish him from his cousin.



He relates (No. 55) his experiences with zest, and mourns the death of his mentor, who was killed during Colonel Wood's unsuccessful assault of the hill fort of Mulbāgal on the night of the 3rd October. Nicholas Morse laments (No. 61) the heavy cost of the war. He thinks it possible that Haidar may be driven to apply to his late enemies the Marathas for aid, but trusts that "those locusts may not appear in the Carnatic." Haidar's troops, however, required no assistance in ravaging the land, and W. M. Goodlad draws (No. 69) a melancholy picture of its condition; "all the country to the southward entirely laid waste; not an hut or inhabitant to be seen for sixty miles together, so terrible have been, and still are, the devastations of the enemy's horse." Haidar's unexpected appearance at the Mount and the consequent terms of peace are commented on by Madge (No. 71), Du Pré (No. 73),<sup>(1)</sup> Goodlad (No. 79), and more fully by Governor Bouchier (No. 78).

News from Bengal is supplied by George Vansittart, Resident at Midnapur, and Robert Palk, jun. In April, 1767, they allude (Nos. 23 and 27) to Ahmad Shah Abdālī's victory over the Sikhs, and his advance on Delhi with a large army of Afghans. It is expected that he will be joined by the Nawab Vizier of Oudh, Shuja-ud-daula, and that the Emperor, Shah Alam, will be dethroned. These conjectures were not realized. A British force moved towards Allahabad, and Shah Abdālī retired. By the end of the following year the English were again on good terms with the Vizier, who consented to a reduction of his army. Robert Palk, jun., who had entered the service in 1763, found himself in trouble five years later. Appointed paymaster for barrack construction at Cossimbazar, he followed the practice of his predecessor in overcharging the Company for materials purchased, and when an investigation was ordered, was rash enough to destroy his accounts. He was consequently suspended pending the decision of the Company. Supported by Governor Verelst<sup>(2)</sup> and aided by his uncle in England, he was reinstated in 1770, when Government appointed him to the Revenue Council at Patna (No. 101). The Directors considered his nomination unsuitable (No. 136), and by their command Palk was removed from Patna in 1772; but the order was revoked, and he was restored in the following year (No. 220). Meanwhile, on the 12th June, 1770, he had married at Calcutta Lucia Stonhouse, daughter of the Rev. Sir James Stonhouse and sister of Mrs. George Vansittart (No. 101). A son was born in 1771 (No. 158), but Mrs. Palk died on the 22nd June, 1772, aged 25 years. Her tomb in the South Park

(1) In a letter to Orme of the 10th June, 1769, Du Pré expresses his views more at length, ascribing the British failure to absence of cavalry, and consequent inability to bring Haidar to action (*Orme MSS.*, vol. 30). Du Pré might have added to the causes insufficiency of transport and interference by the Field Deputies with the military command.

(2) *Brit. Mus. Addl. MSS.*, 34,686. Harry Verelst to Robert Palk, sen., 21st Sept., 1768.

Street Burial Ground,<sup>(1)</sup> Calcutta, bears an epitaph containing five stanzas, one of which runs : —

“ The tender pity she would oft betray  
 Shall be with interest at her shrine returned ;  
 Connubial love connubial tears repay,  
 And Lucia loved shall still be Lucia mourned.”

About a year after his return to England Governor Palk received a claim from one Rayalu Pant, otherwise called Rajah Pandit, late Renter of the lands and villages of San Thomé by Madras and of Devikota in the Tanjore country, for the refund of money gifts made by him, on the ground that his contract had been annulled. Palk writes (No. 70) to his friend Goodlad, admitting that he received substantial though unsolicited presents from the claimant. He consents to repay a sum proportional to the unexpired part of the Renter's term of contract, and asks Goodlad to arrange the matter secretly in conjunction with Muttukrishna Mudali, his former dubash. Palk also wrote to Governor Bouchier, who replies (No. 78) that “ Rajahpundit is an infamous rascal, and is so much in debt to the Nabob that he is now under confinement.” The affair was finally settled by Goodlad in 1771 (No. 140).

Captain Madge, on his return to the Circars after the war, writes (No. 71) regarding the shortcomings of a cadet named Smerdon, in whom Palk was interested. Smerdon, contrary to his own inclination, was sent to India by his father, who not only allowed his son to sail penniless, but failed even to supply him with the clothing necessary for the voyage. Madge aided him on his arrival at Madras and afterwards in the Circars, but he proved to be temperamentally unfitted for the service, and was permitted to resign it. His “ elopement from Madras ” is subsequently recorded (No. 86). Lieut. Thomas Palk was joined in the Circars in 1771 by his younger brother John, who gives an account (No. 124) of his voyage and first experiences of India. On landing at Madras he was met by his cousin Tom Palk, “ who behaved very kind and genteel ” to him. Immediately after Ensign John Palk's arrival Madge received orders to march against the rebellious hill-chief of Totapilli (No. 129). His detachment attained its object, but on its return march 18 out of the 20 Europeans accompanying it were struck down by the pernicious fever for which the Rampa hills are notorious, and only 8 recovered. The two young Palks fell victims to the malady, and their commander's constitution was broken (No. 139). Major Madge took part in the siege of Tanjore in 1773, but died at Madras shortly afterwards (Nos. 216, 227).

Robert Palk was eventually successful in obtaining a writer-ship for his nephew Tom Palk. The latter, who had been commissioned Ensign, found a military life to his taste, and he did well during the campaign. He hesitated about renouncing

(1) In his original *City of Dreadful Night*, descriptive of certain aspects of Calcutta, Mr. Kipling has a chapter “ Concerning Lucia,” which mentions her “ stately tomb ” in the South Park Cemetery. The account of the *City of Dreadful Night* in Mr. Kipling's collected works relates to Lahore.

"the sword for the quill," but ultimately signed covenants in June, 1769. Tom Palk was placed under Goodlad in the Secretary's office, and endeavoured to supplement his monthly salary of 8 pagodas and 23 fanams by embarking in private trade. His uncle made him an allowance, but he soon became involved in debt. Though Governor Bouchier describes him (No. 78) as "a sedate, sensible youth," his early career hardly justifies the encomium.

Disgusted at his want of success in the war with Haidar, and conscious of the displeasure of the Directors, Bouchier resolved (No. 78) to retire in January, 1770. Handing over charge to Du Pré on the 31st, he sailed in the *Britannia* in company with his brother James and Colonel John Call. Bouchier received a better reception from the Court than he anticipated (No. 119). The brothers, who had accumulated a joint fortune of about £60,000 (No. 78), arrived in England in time to see their father Richard Bouchier, sometime Governor of Bombay, just before his death. Fifteen years earlier Orme had characterized Charles Bouchier as "a young man who had strength enough to stand on his own judgment: would not willingly do the wrong thing: but the superiour genius of Mr. Palk had enthralled him so much to the dictates of *his* understanding, that the will of the pastor became infallibly that of the disciple."<sup>(1)</sup>

In supplement to the letters of 1767 to 1769 in Mrs. Bannatyne's collection the following selected documents from the British Museum series of Palk Papers should be read:—

*Add. MSS.*, 34,685.

1767, Nov. — Robert Palk to Jimmy [James Bouchier],  
from London.

N.D. [*cir.* 1768, Feb.] Robert Palk to Charles Bouchier, Nicholas  
Morse, and John Call, from London.

*Add. MSS.*, 34,686.

1768, Feb. 8th Nicholas Morse to Robert Palk,  
from Fort St. George, Madras.

„ May 11th Charles Bouchier to Robert Palk,  
from Fort St. George, Madras.

„ Aug. 7th John Call to Robert Palk,  
from Camp, near Bangalore.

„ Aug. 8th Alexander Wynch to Robert Palk,  
from Fort St. George, Madras.

„ Sept. 14th William Aldersey to Robert Palk,  
from Cossimbazar.

„ Sept. 21st Harry Verelst to Robert Palk,  
from Fort William, Calcutta.

„ „ „ George Dodwell to Robert Palk,  
from Bengal.

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(1) *Orme MSS.*, vol. 28, Robert Orme to John Payne, 26th Oct., 1755.



1768, Sept. 23rd	Claud Russell to Robert Palk, from Calcutta.
„ Oct. 22nd	Alexander Wynch to Robert Palk, from Fort St. George, Madras.
„ Nov. 4th	Chokappa Chetti to Robert Palk, from Fort St. George, Madras.
„ Nov. 27th	Anthony Goodlad to Robert Palk, from Fort William, Calcutta.
1769, Feb. 19th	Charles Bouchier to Robert Palk, from Fort St. George, Madras.
„ Feb. 24th	Alexander Wynch, to Robert Palk, from Fort St. George, Madras.
„ Mar. 5th	William Wynch to Robert Palk, from Fort St. George, Madras.
„ Mar. 10th	Charles Bouchier to Robert Palk, from Fort St. George, Madras.
[1769] Mar. 22nd	Emelia Vansittart, sen., to Robert Palk, from Bath.
1769, June 26th	William Wynch to Robert Palk, from Fort St. George, Madras.
„ „	Rajah Pant to Robert Palk, from Fort St. George, Madras.
„ „	Chokappa Chetti to Robert Palk, from Fort St. George, Madras.
„ „	John Call to Robert Palk, from Madras.
„ June 28th	Shamier Sultan to Robert Palk, from Fort St. George, Madras.
[1769] Oct. 16th	Henry Vansittart, sen., to Robert Palk, from Madeira.

Josias Du Pré, who had entered the civil service in 1752, was Secretary during Lally's siege of Fort St. George, of which he was the official diarist. He visited England in 1764, and returned to Madras in 1768 as Second of Council with succession to Bouchier. His governorship lasted for three uneasy years, during two of which he had the advantage of the co-operation of Warren Hastings. After a distinguished service of fourteen years in Bengal Hastings had, in 1764, accompanied Henry Vansittart to England, and although he desired re-employment, it was not until 1769 that he was appointed to Madras. He arrived at Fort St. George in September, and sat as Third of Council with the duties of Export Warehousekeeper. On Bouchier's departure he became Second Member. He recast the system of 'Investment,' and took an active part in the proceedings of the Board of Police. In 1771 Hastings was nominated to succeed John Cartier as Governor of Bengal, and he sailed for Calcutta in February, 1772.

Impressed by the magnitude of recent territorial acquisitions in India, and by the Company's assumption of sovereignty over them, the Ministry in England determined on intervention in



Indian affairs. The Directors, justly alarmed for their powers, resolved to anticipate reforms, and to this end appointed Henry Vansittart, Luke Sraffton and Colonel Francis Forde as Commissioners; a selection which commended itself to Hastings (No. 88), who expected that Vansittart would ultimately be reappointed Governor of Bengal. The Commissioners sailed from Portsmouth in September, 1769, in the frigate *Aurora*, left the Cape about the 24th December, and were never again heard of. The ship is believed to have been wrecked off the north coast of Madagascar. As time passed without news of her, the letters from India from April, 1770, onwards breathe anxiety, and when at last hope was given up, the loss of Vansittart was keenly felt by his father-in-law Nicholas Morse and brother-in-law Robert Palk (Nos. 103, 134). The first step taken by the Ministry in pursuance of their object was the despatch of Sir John Lindsay, a young Admiral of thirty-three, as Naval Commander-in-Chief in India and Plenipotentiary at the Court of Nawab Walajah, with power to treat with other native rulers. Sir John arrived at Madras in July, 1770, and presented his credentials to an astonished Council, who had received no intimation of his powers. He demanded inspection of the consultation books, which was refused, attached himself to the Nawab, and assumed an authority which the Government declined to recognize (No. 117). General Eyre Coote came out in the same month as Commander-in-Chief in India. He claimed the right to issue orders to the Madras army without submitting them to Government, and maintained that his position was superior to that of the Governor, who held the Company's commission as Commander-in-Chief at Fort St. George. The Council deciding against Coote, he refused to serve, and left for Europe via Basra (No. 118). Du Pré writes to Palk (No. 108), "The Company abuse us like pick-pockets, send over a military officer to quarrel with and tyrannise over us and throw us into confusion. The Government send Sir John Lindsay to threaten and awe us, to wrest all our actions into crimes, and to support the Nabob (perverse enough before) against all our measures; and then, if misfortunes happen, we must bear the whole. I tell you, my friend, the Company's affairs never were in so dangerous a way. We are surrounded with enemys, and the most dangerous are neither Hyder, the Morattas, the Soubah or the French." Hastings remarks (No. 111) that "General Coote is returning to England in disgust because we will not acknowledge his supremacy. Sir J. L. stays because (as I suppose) his Excellency [the Nawab] acknowledges *his* supremacy. Appeals will be made by both to their respective constituents, and all the powers of the Company and of the Crown called upon to punish us for disobedience, contumacy and rebellion." Goodlad considers the situation critical (No. 118); the Nawab thwarting the Council, "a Government spy picking holes in their coat on every occasion, and the

Commander of the army bellowing out vengeance because he cannot be supreme."

In January, 1770, Haidar Ali was again attacked by the Peshwa Mādhū Rao. Hastings thinks (No. 88) that if a compromise is effected between them, they may combine to invade the Carnatic. The Marathas demanded British aid, and Haidar claimed it under the treaty of 1769 (No. 91); but Du Pré, while amusing both parties with expectations, resolved to maintain neutrality (Nos. 94, 96). The Secretaries, Stone and Goodlad, doubtless reflecting the views of the Council, contend (Nos. 117, 118) that if the British are compelled to intervene, they ought to help Haidar, as he constitutes a barrier against Maratha aggression in Southern India. In May, 1770, Mādhū Rao returned to Poona sick, leaving Trimbak Rao in command of the army in Mysore. Haidar sustained a severe reverse near Seringapatam in the following March and narrowly escaped capture. Nawab Walajah, supported by the Plenipotentiary, urged alliance with the Peshwa. Du Pré, however, remained firm in his neutrality (Nos. 155, 157). When the Marathas actually crossed the Carnatic border the Governor prepared for resistance; but the Nawab intervened, and by a small payment induced them to withdraw (No. 159). Stone says (No. 163) that Walajah and the Marathas were secretly acting in collusion, and that the latter had promised the Bāramahal and Seringapatam to the former if Haidar were overthrown with British help. In June, 1772, a treaty was concluded between Haidar and the Peshwa by which the Marathas received 60 lakhs of rupees<sup>(1)</sup> (No. 175), and obtained a cession of territory including Sira and Kolar. The Nawab's frontiers then became continuous with the Maratha dominions along the line of the passes into the Carnatic.

Colonel John Wood was tried by court-martial towards the end of 1769 on various charges relating to misappropriation of stores captured in Coimbatore, and to his conduct in the field during the war with Haidar. The court acquitted him of all the charges, but the Government set aside the finding as being contrary to the evidence, and dismissed Wood from the service. Hastings, writing to Palk (No. 88), expresses the hope that the Directors will approve the action of Government, and that Laurence Sullivan, who is a relation of Wood, will give personal attention to the voluminous proceedings in the case. Goodlad quotes reasons (No. 91) for the dismissal, and regrets that they were not made public. Ultimately the Directors upheld the finding of the court-martial, and Wood's acquittal was confirmed (Nos. 140, 153).

Laurence Sullivan, an intimate friend of Robert Palk, played for thirty years a prominent part in the affairs and management of the East India Company. Entering the Bombay civil service as Factor in 1741, he returned to England on account of

(1) Wilks (*History of Mysore*) says 35 lakhs.

ill-health in 1752. Three years later he was elected a Director, and between that time and his death in 1786 he repeatedly served as either Chairman or Deputy Chairman. Whenever the rules required his withdrawal from the Direction he knew no rest until he had secured re-election. The qualification for a vote was the possession of 500*l.* of India stock. The proprietor of a larger amount could increase his voting power only by splitting his holding into blocks of 500*l.* stock, and assigning them to friends on condition of their voting to his order. Such votes were termed "split votes." Sullivan, being out of the Direction in 1767, requested Palk, who had just returned to England, to ask his friends (No. 41) for votes in Sullivan's favour. The effort was unsuccessful, and in the following year Sullivan combined with Henry Vansittart to purchase India stock (No. 97). Both were chosen for the Direction in 1769; but owing to a heavy fall in the value of the stock they found themselves financially embarrassed. Vansittart hoped to restore his fortunes by proceeding once more to India as one of the three Commissioners. His death by the wreck of the *Aurora* revealed the extent of his losses (No. 103), but even before these were known, Sullivan had been compelled to ask for Palk's good offices with the creditors. In 1772 Sullivan discloses (Nos. 169, 170, 171) his ruined condition, states his liabilities to Vansittart's estate and to Palk, and resolves to return, if possible, to India. Expectations that he would be selected to succeed Du Pré at Fort St. George were disappointed. Sullivan, who had previously been M.P. for Taunton, sat for Ashburton from 1768 until 1774, when he withdrew (Nos. 242, 246) in favour of Palk. In 1774 he suggests that Palk should join with others in taking up a mortgage on Sir George Colebrooke's estates in Grenada (No. 243). Palk declines (No. 244), giving reasons which reflect on Colebrooke's previous transactions with him. In the following year Sullivan is still canvassing for votes for the Direction (No. 248).

Stephen Sullivan, the impecunious son of an impecunious father, applies to Palk (No. 189) about 1772 for a loan of 500*l.*, but is too proud to give a reason for his request. The object may have been aid for his father, for the latter writes (No. 169) in the same year:—"We live now principally upon my son's income, the good youth hardly allowing himself 100*l.* a year." In 1774, however, Stephen Sullivan asks Palk (Nos. 238, 239, 240) for 200*l.* or 300*l.* on the ground that his father is not able to supply him with what is necessary for his support. He fears that he may yet be compelled to seek fortune in India. Four years later he entered the civil service as Secretary at Madras (No. 339), whence he was transferred by Hastings to Bengal.

To return to the correspondence of 1770:—In the Northern Presidency Governor Harry Verelst had given place to John Cartier (No. 84). Kāsim Ali Khan, the deposed Nawab of Bengal, assumed a threatening attitude early in 1770, and



Shuja-ud-daula, Nawab Vizier of Oudh, was expected to join him (No. 92). Revenue Councils were established at Murshidabad and Patna for Bengal and Bihar respectively, George Vansittart and Robert Palk, jun., being appointed to the latter (No. 100). From September the letters from India make frequent allusion to the terrible famine raging in those provinces. Robert Palk, jun., says (No. 101) that many hundreds of thousands had died of starvation, while Goodlad communicates the intelligence (No. 118) that the loss of life was estimated at upwards of two millions, and that in Calcutta itself "the dead were still laying in heaps about the streets." In March, 1771, Kāsim Ali was reported to be north of Delhi with a force of Patāns and Rohillas, prepared to join the Marathas, who under Mahādaji Sindia had lately occupied the capital (No. 133). Six months later the Emperor Shah Alam abandoned the British for the Marathas, and received Delhi from the latter (No. 142). Under their tutelage he gained a victory over the Rohillas in February, 1772. The Vizier, who was hostile to the Marathas, was on the Rohilla frontier, and a British brigade from Patna was ready to support him (No. 168).

A letter from Captain James Rennell, the Surveyor General (No. 145), describes that officer's progress on the survey of Bengal. Rennell entered the Navy in 1756 at the age of fourteen, and the Company's service in 1763, when he was employed in transporting troops by sea from Madras to Tondi for the siege of Madura. On that occasion he surveyed Palk Strait, so named after the Governor, and in the following year he was appointed Surveyor General and commissioned in the Bengal Engineers. He became Captain in 1767 and Major in 1775. His first map of Bengal was carried home by Clive in 1767. In November, 1771, Captain Rennell announces that the field work of his General Survey of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, including marine work on the coasts and islands of the Bay, is almost complete. He expects that his map, in about 50 folio sheets, will be ready early in 1773. The *Bengal Atlas* was actually published in 1779. A brief note of 1776 from Major Rennell (No. 266) relates to domestic events and conditions.

Turning again to the Southern Presidency, we learn that early in 1771 the Raja of Tanjore, influenced by the Marathas, of whose race he was, attacked the Marawar of Ramnād and penetrated to his capital. The Marawar owed allegiance to the Nawab, and both Walajah and Sir John Lindsay urged reprisals on Tanjore. Goodlad says (Nos. 133, 140) that, though by the treaty of 1762 with the Raja the Company was bound to support the Nawab, yet the moment was unsuitable for taking action. There was risk of a Maratha invasion of the Carnatic, and moreover Fāzil Beg Khan, the Nizam's *bakhshi*, was threatening the Circars. The Nawab, the Plenipotentiary, the Raja, the the Marathas and Fāzil Beg were all sources of uneasiness to the Madras Government. "Du Pré, though indefatigable, is almost



harassed to death ; Hastings knows not which way to turn himself, and the Secretaries have not a moment that they dare call their own." Fortified, however, by the opinion of the Directors that the Raja ought to contribute to the cost of the late war, the Council eventually supported the Nawab in his demands, and provided an auxiliary force under General Joseph Smith, which was to act under Walajah's orders (No. 142). The fort of Vallam was reduced in September, 1771, and siege was laid to Tanjore. By the end of October a practicable breach had been made, but on the eve of assault Walajah accepted peace on payment by the Raja of an indemnity and arrears of tribute (Nos. 155, 157). The Nawab's motives for granting such moderate terms were obscure. Goodlad attributes them (No. 159) to fear of the Marathas and jealousy of the Company.

The presence of the King's Plenipotentiary had the worst effect on the Nawab. Walajah neglected the Company, to whom he owed his position as ruler of the Carnatic, and relied solely on the Crown. Proud and ambitious, he hoped to attain independence (No. 118). Lindsay, after a year of strained relations with Du Pré, sailed in July, 1771, and was succeeded in September by Admiral Sir Robert Harland, who possessed the same powers as his predecessor (No. 142). Stone writes (No. 163) that Harland's instructions are to give effect to the Treaty of Paris of 1763, and to receive and transmit complaints from the Nawab. By a strained construction of Article 11 of the treaty the Nawab is deemed an ally of the Crown, and as such is entitled to the King's support and protection. Stone points out that Walajah's undoubted subordination to both the Mogul and his deputy the Nizam are thus ignored. When Du Pré refused to join the Marathas against Haidar Harland threatened to engage the Crown in an alliance with the Peshwa, and enquired whether the Company would in that case assist with troops. Being met with an uncompromising negative, he altered his tone—the result, as was surmised, of orders from the Ministry (No. 165). Goodlad writes (No. 167) that no confidence subsists between the Nawab and the Council, and that conditions are hopeless as long as a Minister of the Crown is retained. The Nawab, he says, has sent home many complaints. "Is it possible to live on terms with a man who is known to endeavour all in his power to thus stab in the dark ?" Harland sailed with the squadron for Bombay in October, 1772, omitting to take leave of the Governor, and consequently receiving no salute (No. 183). He finally left India in July, 1774.

The Nawab's indebtedness to both the Company and private creditors is a frequent topic of the letters from Fort St. George. In 1767 the private debt, which appears to have amounted to about 23 lakhs of pagodas, was consolidated (No. 28). The majority of the Europeans in the Madras Presidency, from members of the Government downwards, were creditors, as well as many persons in Bengal ; but the senior officials

voluntarily renounced priority of claim in favour of the Company. Governor Bouchier remarks in 1769 (No. 78) that Walajah then owed the Company Pags. 27 lakhs, more than half of which was for war expenditure; but he had engaged to clear off 25 lakhs by the middle of 1771 (No. 85). The interests of the private creditors were represented in England by a Committee, of which General Richard Smith was the leading member (No. 91). A striking instance of usurious interest is cited by Goodlad (No. 118), but the ordinary rate before consolidation appears to have been 20 per cent. (No. 22), which was afterwards reduced to 10 per cent. The Select Committee decided that the Company's claims should have priority, and in 1771 Goodlad states (No. 140) that the Nawab's public dues having been discharged, the private creditors may shortly expect a dividend. Walajah however was recklessly extravagant, and it was not long before he was again overwhelmed with debt.

News from home is communicated by Robert Palk, who announces in December, 1770 (No. 119) that England is preparing for war with Spain, though there is hope that hostilities may yet be averted. He characterizes the idea of conquering Mysore as a "wild plan," and regrets that Bouchier lent himself to it. In the following year Palk writes (No. 134) that Hastings has been proposed as Governor of Bengal, but Rumbold is a powerful rival. In 1772 he intimates (Nos. 153, 166) that, while the Ministry do not aim at displacing the Company, they desire to see affairs in India better managed, and will move Parliament to regulate them. Informations regarding alleged frauds have been laid by the brothers Johnstone against Clive and others. Clive spoke for two hours in the House of Commons in vindication of his conduct, and he was followed by Rumbold, Carnac and Coote, the last of whom animadverted on the excessive cost of the army in India. Palk considers that the Directors base their actions on motives of self-interest, and asserts that they are "all such ignoramus's that they understand little or nothing of the affairs abroad." He mentions that Laurence Sullivan is a candidate for the Governorship of Madras in succession to Du Pré.

Warren Hastings sailed from Madras on the 2nd February, 1772, carrying with him John Stewart (or Stuart), who had just arrived from England as Secretary to the Bengal Government. Hastings succeeded Cartier on the 13th April. In September he writes (No. 174) to Laurence Sullivan from Cossimbazar, enumerating his first reforms; the appointments made to the household of the minor Nawab of Bengal, and the reduction of that prince's stipend; the employment of Nandkumar to break the power of Muhammad Razā Khan, who as Naib Diwan had virtually ruled Bengal for seven years; the commencement of a revenue settlement; the formation of a plan for the better administration of justice, and the adoption of Calcutta as the seat of the Diwani and the capital of the province. "The

principles of all our measures have been to establish the new system which the Directors have adopted; to break the influence of the former Administration; to avail ourselves of the present minority<sup>(1)</sup> to establish the line of the Company's power, and habituate the people and the Nabob to their sovereignty, and to make it acceptable to the former by an attention to their ease and by a mild and equal plan of Government." Hastings complains, however, that his constitutional powers as President are too circumscribed. He hopes to avoid being drawn into war. The Nawab Vizier of Oudh has sought British aid against the Marathas, but it will be afforded for his defence only, not for aggression. The Marathas have withdrawn from Rohilkhand, and are operating against the Jāts. The Emperor Shah Alam is at Delhi "in union, that is, in subjection to the Marrattas."

Two months later Hastings writes to Palk (No. 185), expressing regret that the Directors should pay any attention to the scurrilous writings of William Bolts and Alexander Dow regarding Bengal administration, and that Parliament should contemplate making laws for India, seeing that the House is ignorant of the customs of the country. He mentions the arrest of Muhammad Razā Khan, whose influence he hopes to eradicate. Muhammad Razā had been seized in August and taken to Calcutta. He and Shatāb Rai, Naib Diwan of Bihar, were suspected of malversation of the revenue. Both were in due course honourably acquitted, but the Company having assumed the Diwani, their offices were abolished.

Among the Palk papers is also a detailed memorandum (No. 190) of the reforms introduced by Hastings during 1772.

Colonel Gilbert Ironside, who as a subaltern had commanded the escort on the occasion of Hastings's mission to Patna in 1762, is another of Palk's Bengal correspondents. Descended from two Bishops of Bristol of the same name, and son of a banker, Ironside was a soldier of education and ability who obtained rapid promotion. Palk had asked him (No. 135) to procure a copy of the *Code of Muhammadan Law*, perhaps for the use of the home authorities, who proposed to frame a code for India. From the library of Nawab Muhammad Razā Khan Ironside secured (No. 168) the *Digests of the Arabian Canon and Civil Laws*, which he caused to be transcribed and sent to Palk (No. 186). He expresses appreciation of Hastings's reforms, and says that the Governor is surmounting all difficulties. Mrs. Ironside joined her husband from England in 1773, and the Colonel notes (No. 226) the restoration of Robert Palk, jun., to his seat on the Board of Revenue at Patna, "which is looked upon to be a certain and considerable fortune in the space of a few years." The younger Robert is not himself so sanguine. He alludes (No. 227) to Hastings's large economies, and says that the opium trade hitherto in the hands of the civil servants

(1) The minority of the Nawab of Bengal.



at Patna having been claimed for the Company, nothing now remains to the service but salt and European goods. He hopes nevertheless to be able to return to England by 1780.

Henry Vansittart, jun., eldest son of Governor Vansittart, sailed from England in 1771 as a Writer on the Bengal establishment. He gives an account of his voyage (Nos. 138, 141, 147, 152) to his uncle Robert Palk. Within a month of his arrival at Calcutta he left for Madras to visit his grandfather Nicholas Morse (No. 162), the voyage occupying 25 days. Morse's death on the 28th May, 1772, the result of an accident, cut short Vansittart's stay. Chokappa Chetti says (No. 179) that Morse was "a father and friend to all the people in Madras." Returning to Bengal, young Vansittart went to Patna to visit his uncle George (No. 172), and it was not until March, 1773, that he began work as a Writer (No. 202). During the interval, however, he became so proficient in Persian that he earned Hastings's commendation (No. 210) for translating at sight a *History of the Sanyasis*. These wandering bands of robbers, posing as religious mendicants, roved northern India in hordes of several thousands, committing grievous depredations. In March, 1773, no less than five battalions of sepoys were operating against them.

In the course of 1773 Emelia, daughter of Governor Vansittart, arrived from England to stay with her uncle George, who had now become a member of the Bengal Council. Robert Palk, jun., writes (No. 220) that, owing to her early introduction into society in England, she regards us in Calcutta as "contemptible beings;" nevertheless, "she is upon the whole a very worthy good young woman." In January, 1774, he informs his uncle (No. 227) that Mr. Petre has been tried for the murder of Mr. Rochford and acquitted. No mention of the trial has been traced in the records, but the fatality was probably the outcome of a duel between two young writers, John Petre and George Rochford. Petre offered himself to Emelia Vansittart, who, fortified by her uncle George's disapproval, refused him. A little later she became the wife of Edward Parry<sup>(1)</sup> of the Bengal civil service, and the union proved a happy one (No. 252).

Tom Palk, who had visited Trichinopoly with General Joseph Smith in 1771, sends an account (No. 158) of the disastrous powder explosion which occurred at that station on the 14th February, 1772. He complains that, excepting Mr. Morse, none of his uncle's friends has shown him any attention. Later in the year he sailed for Calcutta to visit his half-brother Robert (No. 184). In January, 1773, he writes (No. 191) that he is much enjoying himself "as this happens to be the season for all sorts of diversions, of which we have little or none on the Coast." Always inclined to rely on interest rather than on his own exertions, he is soon grumbling that his brother, who spends 4,000*l.* to 5,000*l.* a year, does not do more to help him.

(1) *Brit. Mus., Addl. MSS.*, 31,686, George Vansittart to Robert Palk, 27th March, 1774.

While still at Calcutta Tom Palk was appointed to Masulipatam (No. 207), and Major Madge offered to unite with Robert Palk, jun., in advancing a substantial sum to enable the young man to embark on private trade. In January, 1774, the younger Robert writes to his uncle (No. 227), "My brother is at Masulipatam, and much pains I have taken to correct his errors and advise him to the best of my judgement; but whether it will be of service to him or not I can't determine. I have said and done all in my power, and added 4,000 Rs. within these few days to 12,000 which he has already had and, I fear, spent. I have little expectation of seeing my money again. It will, however, be some satisfaction to me if it saves him from ruin . . . He is yet young enough to reform." Before this letter reached its destination Governor Palk had administered a severe castigation (No. 224) to the idle and extravagant young man. "I cannot observe," he says; "in your letters or your conduct one generous sentiment which can give me a prospect of your future success and well doing." He alludes to his honest and worthy though not opulent ancestors, and states that the allowance he made to his nephew was ample had the latter chosen to live in the Fort. It may hence be concluded that the young Writer had indulged himself with a residence in the White Town in preference to the stuffy quarters in the Fort Square, for he could scarcely aspire to a country house in the suburbs of Madras. This letter produced a suspension of communication between uncle and nephew which appears to have lasted several years. Eventually a reconciliation was effected. Marriage wrought reform, and Tom Palk saved money, brought up a family and retired on a competence.

At the instance of Nawab Walajah an expedition commanded by General Joseph Smith was organized in 1772 against the two Marawars. At Ramnād great treasure was seized (Nos. 175, 176). Kalaiyarkoil, a scene of lamentable slaughter through miscarriage of orders, was captured by Colonel Abraham Bonjour. The troops were subsequently employed in reducing the poligars of Madura and Tinnevely. In August General Smith resigned the command of the army to Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher (No. 179). Fletcher had originally been entertained locally in 1757 as a monthly Writer at Madras, but was transferred to the army, in which his promotion was rapid. He served as Brigade Major in the Manila expedition of 1762, and was subsequently moved to Bengal. In 1766, when Lieut. Colonel commanding a brigade, he joined the mutinous combination of officers which was suppressed by Clive. Tried and cashiered, he returned to England and entered Parliament. His influence enabled him to procure reinstatement, and he arrived at Madras in 1772 with the rank of Colonel. Tom Palk writes (No. 191), "My beloved friend, General Smith" goes home, and "the command of the troops has devolved on Sir Robert Fletcher, who is universally despised, the court martial

business having laid a stain on his principles that will never be forgot or washed out. Consequently I have not the least intimacy with him." Fletcher proved a thorn in Du Pré's flesh. His obstructiveness in Council became so exasperating that he was ordered to Trichinopoly (No. 196). He claimed to resume his seat in Parliament, and his return to England was sanctioned, provided he first joined his new station. Passing through Cuddalore on his way south, he induced the Chief, James Daniell, to represent his cause (No. 193) to Robert Palk, and secure the latter's interest with the Directors. On Fletcher's relief from command Joseph Smith consented to postpone his own departure and resume duty in place of "the Chevalier" (No. 198).

In October, 1772, Du Pré intimated to Palk (No. 182) his intention of resigning in the following January, as his "constitution is quite worn out." The rest of his stay was embittered by disputes in Council, and at the final meeting before he sailed George Mackay was suspended for maliciously laying an information against Edward Stracey (No. 196). Du Pré embarked on the 1st February, 1773, in the *Nassau*, leaving Alexander Wynch in the Chair. Three months earlier J. M. Stone, who had been promoted to Council, had written to Palk (No. 181) suggesting that Wynch's Government would be strengthened if W. M. Goodlad also were admitted. Before Stone's letter reached its destination, Goodlad was dead. Attacked by hepatic disease, he was operated on by Dr. Gilbert Pasley and advised to go to Europe. A relapse occurred, however, and Goodlad expired of septicæmia on the 24th January, universally lamented. Tom Palk opines (No. 201) that Goodlad's fortune will prove to be limited, as "he was a great lover of claret and every thing that was good." William Petrie, who succeeded Stone as Secretary in the Military and Political Department, informs Palk (No. 196) that Goodlad's affairs are involved owing to his association in private trade with James Johnson, accountant to the Nawab. Until his death Goodlad was one of Palk's most frequent correspondents. His two brothers, Anthony and Richard, the latter of whom had recently arrived in India, were Bengal civil servants, and the elder henceforth assumed the duty of maintaining communication with their friend and patron (No. 203). He reports in due course (No. 215) that Petrie has done well in the settlement of Martin's affairs, and that there will probably be enough money to discharge the liabilities. This expectation proved too sanguine. Thirteen years later it was estimated (No. 469) that while the bond creditors would be paid in full, the book creditors would receive only 60 per cent. of their dues.

The Resident in Ganjam, Edward Cotsford, furnishes a sketch (No. 183) of affairs in his district from the time of Palk's departure down to 1772. Cotsford entered the Madras Engineers in 1758, and served in the Manila expedition and at the two sieges



of Madura. In 1766 he was selected by Palk to be Resident in the newly acquired territory of Ganjam, and three years later he relinquished the military for the civil service. In March, 1767, during Captain Cotsford's temporary absence, Narāyan Deo, Zemindar of Kimedi, seized part of the Chicacole Circar. Colonel Joseph Peach, commanding the Bengal force sent to threaten Hyderabad during the first Mysore war, was employed against this turbulent chief, who was defeated and driven out of the country. Cotsford returned to Ganjam early in 1768, accompanied by a detachment of troops. He states that the Zemindars have now (1772) been brought to some degree of order at the cost of 450 casualties to his own force of 16 companies. A fort is in course of construction, and the net revenue of the district is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of rupees. Most of the Zemindars are under the authority of a powerful chief named Sitarām Rāz ; but this system, though necessary at one time, is now undesirable, as each zemindar ought to be directly responsible to the Resident. A year later Cotsford anticipates (No. 217) that Ganjam will become the granary of Madras.

Alexander Wynch, who became provisional Governor on Du Pré's departure, had had long experience of the Company's service. Entertained locally in 1734, he was brought on the civil list in 1740. He was a member of Pigot's Council from 1755, and was officiating as Deputy Governor of Fort St. David when that place capitulated to Lally in 1758. He subsequently resigned the service and sailed for England. In 1768 he was re-employed, and served as Chief at Masulipatam. The principal event of his governorship, which lasted from February, 1773, until the arrival of Lord Pigot in December, 1775, was the conquest of the province of Tanjore, an operation which had far-reaching consequences. Walajah's pretext for attack was the non-payment of tribute by the Raja. The Government, supported by Harland, sent a contingent under General Joseph Smith to assist the Nawab. British and Carnatic troops laid siege to the fort and city of Tanjore in August, 1773, and the place was taken on the 17th September. It was made over to the Nawab, who imprisoned the Raja and occupied the province. The fort of Vallam, a few miles from the capital, was garrisoned by the Company's troops. Before his deposition the Raja had granted the sea port of Nagore to the Dutch, and Walajah claimed British help in recovering it. Edward Cotsford states (No. 217) that the Dutch evacuated the territory under protest, but collected troops from Ceylon and assumed a threatening attitude. He comments on the reprehensible system adopted at Tanjore by the Nawab of bargaining with a committee of British officers for money to be paid them in lieu of plunder, and considers that the plan strikes at the root of discipline. There are rumours, he says, that the officers may refuse to fight the Dutch on the ground that such service is not covered by their agreement with the Nawab.

Towards the end of 1773 Hastings mentions (No. 223) his negotiations with the Nawab Vizier, which terminated in the Treaty of Benares. By this instrument the districts of Korā and Allahabad, which Clive had assigned in 1765 to the titular Emperor, were, in consequence of Shah Alam's rupture with the British and attachment to the Marathas, taken back and ceded to the Vizier. Shuja-ud-daula agreed to pay 50 lakhs of rupees into Hastings's exhausted treasury, while the Company engaged to furnish him with military aid against the Rohillas. Anthony Goodlad alludes (No. 215) to the treaty, and refers Palk for details to George Vansittart, who was with Hastings at the time of its execution. Goodlad says that the differences in England between the Ministry and the Directors arouse anxiety in India, and considers that Hastings deserves more ample support in his reforms. Robert Palk, jun., writes in January, 1774 (No. 227) that the Vizier has already paid 20 lakhs of the stipulated sum. He enumerates Hastings's new revenue regulations, whereby Provincial Councils replace Collectors, and Revenue Courts are established. Members of the Councils are forbidden to engage in private trade, but are granted a substantial allowance in lieu. Military officers are prohibited from dealing with landholders or revenue officials. He reports that General Sir Robert Barker, who had exercised great influence over the Nawab Vizier, has left India, and that the army command has devolved on General Chapman, an elderly officer whose chief aim is to recoup his gambling losses. It is expected that Chapman will be bought out of the service by his juniors, and that General Alexander Champion will succeed him.

In February the same correspondent reports (Nos. 233, 234) that the Jāts have yielded Agra to the combined forces of the Emperor, under Najaf Khan, and the Nawab Vizier. Hastings's stipulation that the British troops within the confines of Oudh shall be paid by Shuja-ud-daula is said to have been unfavourably criticized : it is called " hiring the troops to the country powers." Economies are being effected in all directions. A post is about to be established for the whole country, a charge of two annas per hundred miles being fixed for each letter of minimum weight. This plan will save the Company two lakhs of rupees annually, the cost of the existing *dāks*. Some two years later the advantages of the Suez route for mails to and from England become apparent. John d'Fries reports from Madras in 1776 (No. 299) that private letters for Hastings of the 20th May from London and 3rd June from Marseilles were delivered in Calcutta on the 15th August. He advocates the appointment of a Company's agent at Cairo to forward communications to Suez, where a small vessel from Bombay or Bengal should be always kept in readiness for the passage to India. In his view a quarterly service might thus be maintained at small cost.

Among Robert Palk's native correspondents at Fort St.

George are Chokappa Chetti and Muttukrishna Mudali. The former, a Company's Merchant of long standing, was thrown out of employ by the change in the system of Investment which Hastings introduced when Export Warehousekeeper. Under his plan *gomastas* in the weaving villages replaced the Company's Merchants. Chokappa continued, however, to hold the contract for the exclusive supply of arrack and toddy (Nos. 194, 204). Muttukrishna, who had held the office of Company's Interpreter from 1749, attended Palk and Vansittart on their mission to Sadras in 1754, and detected the forgery which Dupleix attempted to impose on the Commissioners. Chokappa frequently gives news of French proceedings. In 1773 and 1774 he reports (Nos. 219, 230) activity on the fortifications, and states that Jean Law as Governor and Commander-in-Chief, aided by a Supervisor sent from France, rules Pondicherry for the King independently of a Council.

On the 18th November, 1772, died the Peshwa Mādhu Rao. He was succeeded by his brother Narāyan Rao, whose uncle Raghunath Rao, commonly called Raghoba, became commander of the army (No. 194). The new Peshwa was murdered in the following August at the instigation of Raghoba, who aimed at the government. The Ministers, however, supported an infant said to be a posthumous son of Narāyan. The dissensions which ensued gave Haidar an opportunity of recovering lost territory. In November, 1773, he reduced Malabar, while Tipu secured the northern districts around Sirā. Chokappa writes in February, 1774 (No. 230) that Raghoba, after threatening Hyderabad with a large force, had settled with the Nizam, and is now engaged in making terms with Haidar at Sirā. It is expected that the Marathas will invade the Carnatic in order to compel the restoration of Tanjore to the Raja, reclaim the Marawa country and Arni for themselves, and obtain from the Nawab arrears of *chaut*. Muttukrishna Mudali writes to the same effect (No. 232), and adds that Walajah is already negotiating with Raghoba, while alarm prevails in the Carnatic. Fears subsided as soon as it became known that the prospect of civil war had compelled the withdrawal of Raghoba's troops (No. 235). The Raja of Tanjore, still a prisoner, then lost all hope of liberation.

In 1773 the Regulating Act was passed by the Home Government. Under this Act Hastings became Governor General in Council with certain controlling powers over Madras and Bombay. His Council was reduced to four members, three of whom, General Sir John Clavering, Colonel the Hon. George Monson, and Philip Francis, were sent out from England, while the fourth, Richard Barwell, was a member of the old Council. Robert Palk, writing to Walajah about March, 1774, (No. 237), informs him that the three new members, who are on the point of sailing, will visit the Nawab at Madras on their way. Palk conveys a message from General Lawrence, whose



health is failing, and adds, "I still endeavour to keep up his spirits and make his life comfortable as formerly, and we often recount the many happy days we have passed with your Highness in the field, in garrison and at the Mount." The Regulating Act also constituted a Supreme Court of Judicature to administer English law at Fort William, with Sir Elijah Impey as Chief Justice. Clavering, Monson and Francis were escorted up the Hugli by Sir Edward Hughes, commanding the East India squadron (No. 284), and they landed at Calcutta on the 19th October, 1774. They at once adopted an attitude of hostility to Hastings, who could rely for support on Barwell only. As the Act gave the Governor General no power to outvote his Council, Hastings was constantly thwarted, and the Government measures adopted down to the time of Monson's death in 1777 may generally be attributed to the triune majority. They denounced the Treaties of Allahabad and Benares, and disapproved of the Rohilla war, which, undertaken to support the Vizier against the Marathas, terminated in 1774. In January, 1775, Shuja-ud-daula died and was succeeded by his son Asaf-ud-daula, who was required to cede to the Company his sovereign rights over the territory of Benares.

Public knowledge of the dissensions in the Council induced the production of charges against Hastings. Maharaja Nandkumar accused him of fraud, and Joseph and Francis Fowke of corruption. Hastings prosecuted his accusers for conspiracy, but while proceedings were pending Nandkumar was arrested on a charge of forgery at the instance of a private person, and was tried and executed. A side-light is thrown on the situation in Council by a letter from Colonel Ironside of 1776 (No. 268). Charges, which the accused characterizes as "frivolous and insignificant," had been made against the Colonel and brought to the notice of the Board. Hastings and Clavering, as representing their respective parties, both expressed themselves ready to acquiesce in Ironside's justification, but neither would make the first advance through fear of being charged with partiality, Ironside having previously acted as Hastings's Secretary, while Mrs. Ironside's brother, Roger Roberts,<sup>(1)</sup> was Clavering's Persian Translator. Eventually the matter was referred to the Directors. John d'Fries writes (No. 252, 256) that "Bengal is over run with informers' accusations . . . Nothing is done but from the spirit of party." D'Fries, an assistant in Nicholas Morse's house of agency, carried on the business after his chief's death. At a later date he was joined by Thomas Pelling, a free-merchant of long standing, and the firm became known as Pelling & de Fries. Both partners frequently corresponded with Robert Palk, whom they represented in Madras. Mrs. Morse, who had gone to England to join her daughter Mrs. Vansittart, could not readily adapt herself to new conditions of life after her long residence in Madras (No. 265). Married in 1730, she had endured De la

(1) Grand mentions Captain Roberts as aide-de-camp to Clavering.

Bourdonnais' bombardment of Fort St. George in 1746, courageously refusing a permit to leave which was offered to her as the wife of the Governor. Prior to Lally's siege of Madras in 1758 Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Vansittart were sent by sea to Sadras for safety. That Dutch settlement had just then been seized by the French, and the ladies landed to find themselves prisoners.

In connection with the period 1771 to 1774 the following selection from the Palk papers in the British Museum should be consulted :—

*Addl. MSS.*, 34,686.

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| 1771, April 22nd | John Call to Robert Palk,<br>from Whiteford, Cornwall.          |
| 1772, Sept. 7th  | Warren Hastings to Robert Palk,<br>from Cossimbazar.            |
| 1773, Nov. 15th  | Warren Hastings to Robert Palk,<br>from Fort William, Calcutta. |
| 1774, Jan. 17th  | George Vansittart to Robert Palk,<br>from Calcutta.             |
| 1774, Mar. 21st  | Warren Hastings to Robert Palk,<br>from Fort William, Calcutta. |
| 1774, Mar. 27th  | George Vansittart to Robert Palk,<br>from Calcutta.             |

The dissensions in the Supreme Council were imitated at Fort St. George. Nawab Walajah designed to make his favourite son Amir-ul-Umarā ruler of Tanjore (No. 250). Wynch and the majority of Council opposed the proposition, which was supported by General Smith, J. M. Stone and Samuel Johnson, and the matter was referred to Bengal. Chokappa notifies the return to Madras in 1775 of Sir Robert Fletcher, and the steady purchase by the Nawab of substantial houses in the Fort. He mentions the publication of an order forbidding acceptance by the Company's civil and military servants of gifts from natives under penalty of fine and deportation, and remarks that "if this is the case, the Madrass gentlemen in the Company's service will find great difficulty in getting a fortune after they disburse their own private expences." He also reports a storm at Surat which wrecked nine large ships and forty small vessels, and alludes to fighting by land and sea between the Company's forces and the Marathas.

These hostilities were due to the action of the Bombay Government in espousing the cause of Raghoba against the Ministerial party at Poona. The price of aid was to be the cession of Bassein and Salsette, and an agreement known as the Treaty of Surat was concluded with Raghoba to that effect in 1775. The island of Salsette was occupied by a force under Colonel Robert Gordon at the end of 1774, and three months later Colonel Keating was sent with troops to support Raghoba in his march from Baroda to Poona. The Supreme Council, which had not been consulted, ordered the recall of Keating, sent

Colonel John Upton to Poona to negotiate with the confederacy of chiefs, and obtained a suspension of arms. Colonel Gordon, writing to Palk in 1775, describes (No. 255) the position of affairs. Comments on the action of the Bombay Government are made by d'Fries (Nos. 252, 256). He remarks that Salsette is "the grainery of Bombay," and considers the occasion favourable for dividing and therefore weakening the Maratha power. Meanwhile civil war continued. Muttukrishna Mudali writes (No. 262) that the internecine strife is advantageous to the Nizam, who has recovered lost territory, as well as to minor chiefs; who have escaped payment of *chaut*. Basālat Jang, the Nizam's brother, who had been required by the Supreme Government to disband a substantial body of French troops in his service (No. 256), sent his army, including the French detachment, to besiege Bellary, where a Hindu tributary was aiming at independence. This poligar appealed for help to Haidar, who swooped down on Bellary, routed Basālat Jang, continued the siege on his own account and compelled the surrender of the unfortunate poligar (No. 263). Haidar then attacked Gooty (No. 278), and forced its chief, the celebrated Morāri Rao, who made a gallant defence, to capitulate. Morāri Rao was imprisoned, and died in confinement.

From 1775 Robert Palk has a new correspondent, though an old friend, in Commander George Baker, late of the Company's marine service. Baker, who was born in 1721 at Tor Mohun (now called Torre, near Torquay), first came to India in 1743. Like Palk, he was with Boscawen at Pondicherry, and he afterwards did good service during Lally's siege of Fort St. George. He was rewarded by Pigot in 1762 with the post of Master Attendant or controller of shipping at Madras. Nine years later, when in England, Baker contracted with the Company to supply water to the Fort and shipping from a source north of Black Town, and he duly carried out the project. Reynold Adams, who was Master Attendant when Baker arrived in 1772, feared that the water scheme would interfere with his own perquisites (No. 177). To recoup himself he asked for Palk's aid in procuring a contract for the exclusive supply of betel, tobacco and bhang (No. 229). He was the tenant of Palk's house in the White Town, and from time to time propitiated his landlord with the gift of a pipe of madeira. In 1775 he sent (No. 261) "a hogshead of old Goa arrack, said to be the best ever brought to Madras . . . It was got of the dispersed Fathers of the Inquisition." Tom Palk coveted the house, and vainly tried to induce his uncle to evict Adams (No. 191).

George Baker reports progress (No. 260) on the Madras fortifications. It is remarkable that there are but few allusions in the Palk letters to the final reform and completion of Fort St. George. This extensive and costly work was carried out by the Chief Engineer, Colonel Patrick Ross, between 1770 and 1783. After mentioning that dissensions in Council continue,



and that Governor Wynch fails to inspire respect, Baker announces the arrival of Palk's nephew Richard Welland, a naval cadet of the *Salisbury*, flagship of Sir Edward Hughes. The *Salisbury* has been lately at Masulipatam to fetch some Company's merchandize, and since her return Welland has not been ashore, "for the Commadore pays close attention to the manner in which all his young gentlemen spend their time." Welland himself, a son of Governor Palk's sister Grace, writes to his uncle (No. 259) of his visit to Masulipatam, where Tom Palk "behaved very kind to me and gave me some books." He says that both Baker and Adams often invite him ashore, and adds, "I think hats is very dear in India." Sir Edward Hughes, who had succeeded Harland in command of the squadron, sailed for the Malabar coast in October, 1775, and in the following January writes (No. 269) that he has come to Bombay to refit, and "assist if I can in the treaty making at Poonah." He tells Palk that Welland "grows a very smart young man."

Colonel Upton's negotiations with the Ministerial party terminated in the Treaty of Purandhar, by which Raghoba was thrown over, Salsette and Broach were ceded to the Company, while other British conquests reverted to the Marathas. In March, 1776, Sir Edward Hughes sums up the position thus (No. 284): "Ragobah has been able to get little security and no share in the government: in short the Presidency of Bombay made a treaty with him to support his attempt, which that of Fort William disapproved and sent a deputy to make peace, which was concluded and signed at Poonah the 1st of this instant." Edmund Veale Lane, a Bombay civil servant of 1767 whom Palk had befriended, was now at Tannah in Salsette after serving as Judge Advocate with Colonel Gordon. He writes (No. 290) of "the dishonorable and wretched treaty concluded by the Supreme Council's Plenipo with the Ministerial party of the Marrattas, by which we have violated the national honor, and made our faith justly doubted by every prince in India." Lane foresees further trouble, as Haidar is aggressive and the Maratha chiefs are disunited. A claimant for the Peshwaship, who pretends to be Sudaba, cousin of Raghoba, is in the field with a considerable force, and in Lane's opinion he may succeed, whether an impostor or not, in overthrowing the Ministers. The pretender gained in fact important successes in the Konkan, and "very near wrested the government" from the Ministerial party (No. 313). Lane considers that, but for these successes, the cessions required by the treaty would never have been made. The real Sudaba or Sudasheo Rao was a nephew of the Peshwa Bāji Rao. He was missing, believed killed, after the battle of Pānīpat in 1761, when the Marathas were defeated by Ahmad Shah Abdālī. Some years later a person representing himself to be Sudaba was imprisoned as an impostor. Escaping in April, 1776, this man secured a large following of believers, and even received some countenance

from the Bombay Government. Successful at first, he was eventually defeated and delivered to the Ministers, by whom he was executed.

Lieut. J. Snelling, who had been started in life by Robert Palk, writes from Vizagapatam (No. 267) that he is laid up with a severe attack of malarial fever after an expedition in the adjacent hills. He has lately been transferred to a battalion commanded by Captain Mathews, and he represents that officer as "the most warlike genius in India, and the most enterprising man that ever drew sword in this part of the country . . . What a pleasure and satisfaction it is for a young fellow like myself to be under a man so renowned for every particular of the military art!" Richard Mathews, when in command of a native battalion in the first Mysore war, had captured the hill fort of Mulbāgal by a bold and clever stratagem. His operations during the second Mysore war, when he commanded the troops in Malabar will be mentioned later. Snelling has been advised to go south for the sake of his health, but he fears the greater expense "from the number of pleasures to be met with there, such as plays, horse racing, cock-fighting; in short almost all those expensive amusements you have in England." In the Circars he can live on his pay "very genteelly." Snelling's health was seriously undermined, and he died at Madras in 1778 (No. 327).

The Directors appointed (No. 274) a Committee of Circuit, consisting of five members, to tour the Circars and the Company's *Jagir*, and report on the administration of those districts. At this juncture John Whitehill resigned the chiefship of Masulipatam, and George Baker observes (No. 277) that "the busy world say he chose not to stay till the new Committee came their rounds." Writing on the 23rd February, 1776, Baker mentions (No. 281) that Whitehill and John Sullivan will sail from Pondicherry for Europe in the *Ajax*, and he adds, "A Mrs. Draper of Bombay (who is a niece of Mr. Whitehill's) accompanyes them: they all set out for Pondicherry to-morrow." This lady was Sterne's "Eliza." Her father, May Selater, went to India in 1736, married Miss Whitehill and settled at Anjengo, where Eliza was born in 1744. She married Daniel Draper of the Bombay civil service, and in 1765, during a visit to England, met Laurence Sterne. Correspondence ensued, which was afterwards published. She was his "Bramine"; he her "mild, generous and good Yorick." Mrs. Draper sailed for India in 1767 to rejoin her husband. About six years later she eloped from Bombay in a ship commanded by Sir John Clarke,<sup>(1)</sup> and went to her uncle Thomas Whitehill, a Bombay civil servant. She subsequently joined his brother John Whitehill at Masulipatam, and accompanied him in 1776 to England, where she died two years afterwards at the age of thirty-four. Baker further announces that the *Hillsborough*, with George Vansittart and

(1) An allusion to Sir John Clarke is made in No. 260.

his wife on board, left Madras for England on the 16th February, and was not out of sight until the 20th. The ship pursued a leisurely course to St. Helena, where the Vansittarts became the guests of Daniel Corneille, the Lieutenant-Governor. Corneille writes to Palk (No. 286) regarding them, and adds, "The good example you have set me of four little ones I am endeavouring to follow. My present family consist of two boys and one girl, besides one upon the stocks that will make his or her appearance in three months; after which, having followed your example, I aspire to no further wish of greater perfection."

The difficulty of making private remittances to England is complained of in many letters. The rates for Company's bills being generally unfavourable, remittances were often made by sending home diamonds (Nos. 16, 20, 48, 68, 80, etc.). George Vansittart and Robert Palk, jun., purchased a ship, loaded her with opium, and sent her to trade in the Eastern Archipelago and China with the view of remitting the proceeds from Batavia and Canton (No. 213); but the venture proved unsuccessful. When diamonds were not procurable recourse was had to specie. D'Fries says in 1775 (No. 256), "The exportation of the specie continues with us to a greater degree than ever. It is reckoned that in the course of this present year six lacks of pagodas have been exported to China and Europe—a melancholy and very alarming circumstance, for it must drain the country, and that very soon if continued." A little later Chokappa writes (No. 270), "Several gentlemen in the place, for want of a way of remitting their fortune to England by bills, sends it in gold and Star pagodas on every ship that goes from hence, which impoverish[es] the place very much."

The American war is noticed by d'Fries early in 1776 (No. 276). "The unlucky turn that the American business has taken has filled us with much serious reflection. We anxiously wait to hear from England. God send that matters may have been made up." Allusion to the war is also made by Sir E. Hughes (No. 303).

The long expected arrival of Lord Pigot, which took place on the 9th December, 1775, opened a strange chapter in the history of Madras. The Governor elect was accompanied by Claud Russell and Alexander Dalrymple, two members of his Council of ten. Pigot was no stranger to the Southern Presidency, the government of which he had administered from 1755 to 1763. A grateful population was not oblivious of his successful defence of Fort St. George against the French, nor of the subsequent British capture of Pondicherry. George Baker describes (No. 263) the enthusiastic reception of the new Governor and the ceremonial observed on his assumption of office. Pigot was charged by the Directors with orders to effect the restoration of the Tanjore province to the Raja (No. 274). Sir Edward Hughes wrote from Bombay (No. 284), "I am told Lord Pigot brings regulations respecting Tanjour, but am afraid not very



pleasing to the poor Nabob, who certainly merits every attention from the English, being in my opinion their most sincere friend in this country." <sup>See</sup> Pigot was considerate to the Nawab, and after nearly two months spent in argument Walajah consented to release the Raja and receive a British garrison in Tanjore city. The province he could not be prevailed on to relinquish, as he said that the two expeditions for its conquest had cost him three crores of rupees (No. 276). Colonel Humphrey Harper marched from Trichinopoly and took possession of the city fort. Meanwhile the Nawab made representations to the Directors through Colonel Lauchlan Macleane, his agent in England (Nos. 245, 275). Macleane had retired from the Bengal Army as Major in 1766, but was re-appointed through the influence of Sir George Colebrooke (No. 169), who was Chairman of Directors in 1772. He returned to India as Commissary General, Bengal, with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel. In 1774 Hastings selected him to serve as his representative in England, and Macleane accepted a commission to act for Walajah at the same time.

While Pigot was arguing with Walajah, John Macpherson, a former representative of the Nawab, intervened. Macpherson had come to India in 1767, at the age of 22, as the purser of a Company's ship. He ingratiated himself with the Nawab, and was by him appointed his agent in England. Macpherson approached the King's Ministers, and the nomination of Sir John Lindsay as Plenipotentiary is believed to have been partly due to his advocacy. For himself he secured a Writership at Madras from the Directors. Early in 1776 he was paying surreptitious midnight visits to the Nawab (No. 270) to claim recognition of his former services. Walajah, disillusioned by the orders respecting Tanjore, handed Macpherson's memorial to Lord Pigot. The young civil servant was summoned before the Council, and was dismissed the service for conduct prejudicial to the Company in the past (No. 277). Macpherson returned to England in 1777 and entered Parliament. In 1781 he was reinstated by the Directors, and sent to Bengal as a member of the Supreme Council. On Hastings's resignation in 1785 Macpherson became provisional Governor General, and he was created a baronet in the following year.

Further pressure by Lord Pigot failed to persuade the Nawab to reinstate the Raja, and produced only friction. Duly authorized by the Council, Pigot went down to Tanjore with a retinue, and on the 11th April restored the province to its former ruler (No. 288). Chokappa, who accompanied the party, describes (No. 289) the treatment of the Raja during his confinement, and gives a graphic account of the ceremony of reinstatement. Chokappa then went on to Trichinopoly, and learned that the Marawars of Ramnād and Sivaganga were detained prisoners there by the Nawab. While at Tanjore Lord Pigot required the Nawab's manager to produce accounts of the

revenues of the province. The manager fled, and Pigot caused him to be pursued into Carnatic territory and arrested. This action gave great umbrage to the Nawab.

As security for loans from private persons Walajah had granted *tankas* or assignments of the revenues of Tanjore to the extent of about 16 lakhs of pagodas. The creditors held a lien on the grain crop, which at the time of Lord Pigot's visit was partly cut. Directly Tanjore was restored, the Raja, supported by British troops, seized the grain (Nos. 288, 289). On Pigot's return to Madras a difference arose in Council as to liability for payment of the *tankas*. The majority were in favour of satisfaction by the Raja, while the minority, which included the Governor, held that the Raja was not concerned with assignments made by the Nawab. Walajah declined to pay unless ordered by the Company to do so. He professed fear of violence from Lord Pigot, and applied to Sir Edward Hughes for protection (No. 288). The breach between Governor and Nawab yawned wide. In June, 1776, Walajah writes to Palk (No. 287) that it is evidently "his Lordship's intention to distress and disgrace me, and he has seized every opportunity of injuring my affairs and of hurting my honor and authority"; and the writer goes on to hint that Pigot has private interests to serve by his action.

The principal creditors were Paul Benfield, the Hon. Edward Monckton, George Smith and Reynold Adams, but all Madras was interested. Monckton, a civil servant, had lately married Pigot's daughter Sophia. Benfield came out to Madras in 1764 as Civil Architect and Engineer, and was employed on the works of Fort St. George with the rank of lieutenant, though his name was also borne on the civil list. In 1769 he resigned his appointment of Engineer to become contractor for the erection of a rampart  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length for the defence of Black Town. Dismissed the service in 1770 for factious conduct, he was reinstated, but was suspended for disobedience in 1772. He subsequently contracted for new works at Fort St. George, and was engaged on them until 1776. Out of the profits of his contracts he lent large sums to the Nawab. Chokappa writes in 1774 (No. 230), "Mr. Benfield is Banker and Soukar to his Highness the Nabob: all drafts and bills for the payment of the kists to the Company are sent to him, and he discharges it."

For three months following Pigot's return from Tanjore disputes continued in Council. Benfield was supported by George Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan and George Mackay; while the minority consisted of Lord Pigot, Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple and J. M. Stone. The crisis came in August. All the letters of the period are full of the events which followed. The best accounts are those by George Baker (No. 293) and John d'Fries (No. 310). The point immediately

at issue was the representation of British interests at Tanjore. Russell had been nominated Resident, but the Majority proposed to cancel the appointment, send Russell on tour with the Committee of Circuit, and despatch Colonel James Stuart to command the troops in the province and incidentally recover the Nawab's assignments from the Raja. Orders for Stuart were drawn up, but the President refused to sign them unless Russell also went as Resident to watch over the Raja's interests. On the 23rd August the Majority directed the Secretary, Richard Joseph Sullivan, to sign the orders on behalf of the President. Sullivan required a written instruction, which was accordingly drafted and passed round for signature. After Stratton and Brooke had signed, Pigot intercepted the paper, charged the two signatories with inciting the Secretary to do an unlawful act, and moved their suspension. Sir Robert Fletcher being absent through sickness, the motion was carried.

The Majority assembled the same evening at Benfield's house, where, according to Chokappa (No. 295), they consulted with Macpherson, Benfield and the Nawab's two sons. They met again early next morning at Fletcher's residence, resolved that the suspensions were illegal, and determined to assume the powers of Government. They sent out notices to that effect. On the same day, the 23rd, Lord Pigot summoned to the Board Richard Latham, Chief of Cuddalore, who had come up to join the Committee of Circuit, and the Minority thus augmented suspended the remaining members of the Majority, ordered Fletcher into arrest, and offered the command of the army to Stuart. On Saturday, the 24th, Stuart breakfasted with Lord Pigot, and the Council sat intermittently throughout the day at the Fort House. When they rose the Governor invited Stuart to supper at the Company's Gardens and offered him a seat in his chaise. They started after dark, Pigot himself driving a pair of spirited horses. The road lay across the Island through a double avenue of banyan trees. When the carriage was midway between the bridges two officers, Lieut-Colonel Edington, Adjutant-General, and Captain Lysaght, stepped into the road and signed to it to stop. They were supported by an armed party of sepoys concealed in the shadow of the trees. Lord Pigot reined in. Lysaght shouted, "You are my prisoner," and Stuart ordered the Governor to get out. Pigot was hustled into a closed carriage belonging to Benfield, which was waiting at the spot. Lysaght, pistol in hand, followed; an orderly sergeant mounted behind, and the carriage with drawn blinds was driven rapidly to the Mount, where Lord Pigot was delivered into the custody of Major Matthew Horne, commanding the Artillery.

Stuart, who had framed the whole plan in collusion with Fletcher, returned from the scene of arrest to the Fort House, where the Majority were already assembled. All slept in the Council Chamber that night. On the morning of Sunday the



25th, having suspended Russell, Dalrymple, Stone and Lathom, they summoned the civil and military servants and the inhabitants to hear a proclamation announcing their assumption of Government with George Stratton as President. The military officers had already received their orders from Stuart. Among the civil servants there was some hesitation, and 38 of them ultimately refused to acknowledge the new Government (No. 297). On the 27th at midnight Colonel Edington presented himself at the Mount with an order to Major Horne for the removal of Lord Pigot to an unspecified place of detention. Pigot refused to go, and when Horne summoned the garrison troops the ex-Governor harangued them to such effect that they tacitly refused to exercise force. Edington returned to Madras, his mission unfulfilled. Meanwhile Russell, who was with Lord Pigot, hurried to Sir Edward Hughes at San Thomé to demand his protection, and Hughes left his bed for the Fort. The Majority refused to yield the person of Lord Pigot to the Admiral, but engaged that no further attempt should be made to remove his lordship from the Mount. Hughes himself says (No. 303) that, both parties having appealed to him for support, he determined to afford it to the section which possessed power to carry on the government.

The Nawab protests (No. 301) entire innocence of complicity in Lord Pigot's arrest, and assures Palk of his own unalterable attachment to the Company. In a subsequent letter (No. 308) he recalls his disapproval of the Treaty with Tanjore of 1762, and says that Pigot at that time forced him to sign the instrument. George Smith, although a *tanka*-holder on Tanjore revenues for about Pags. 30,000, denounces (No. 297) the revolution, and asserts that the charges against Pigot of despotism, venality and attempts to subvert the constitution are unfounded. D'Fries, who mentions the sudden death of another *tanka*-holder, Reynold Adams, reports (No. 299) that the revolution has affected the Company's prestige with the natives. He believes that the Nawab's selection of Madras as his place of residence, though tending to develop intrigue, is on the whole advantageous, since he can be better watched when under the eye of Government, while his presence has undoubtedly conduced to the prosperity of the capital, the population of which has increased by one-third during the last ten years. Sir Edward Hughes is of opinion (No. 303) that the Tanjore province ought to be held by the Nawab, a British garrison occupying the city. He thinks that the orders for rendition would not have been issued if Colonel Maclean had reached England earlier; and he regrets that no written treaty has ever been concluded between the Company and the Nawab.

Charles Floyer, a member of the Majority, explains (No. 302) the motives of his action in the revolution, and conjures up a farrago of surmises. He holds that Lord Pigot intended to extract a large sum from the Raja as the reward of rendition,

and fears that Benfield's unsupported charges of venality will prove to be only too true. He draws dark inferences from the nomination of Russell to Tanjore, seeing that the prospective Resident is about to marry Leonora Pigot. He points out that the suspension of Stratton and Brooke would make Russell Second of Council, and suggests that Pigot contemplated resignation of the Government to his son-in-law. He makes the point that the revolution was bloodless, and contends that it would certainly have been otherwise if the Majority had limited themselves to suspending the Governor instead of arresting him. Benfield went to Tanjore (No. 307) to press his claims on the Raja and secure proofs of Lord Pigot's venality. He came back unsatisfied on both heads.

The Supreme Government, which had already expressed disapproval of Pigot's attitude towards the Nawab and of his action in Tanjore, especially in regard to the arrest of the Nawab's manager (No. 293), determined to support the Majority as the legal Government. Their decision reached Madras early in October, and the *Swallow*, sloop of war, was at once despatched to Suez with full reports of the revolution. Dalrymple carried a packet from Lord Pigot, and Colonel Capper one from the Nawab. D'Fries considers (No. 310) that the Company should strictly define the powers of the President in relation to those of a majority of the Council, and issue explicit orders as to intervention by military officers in civil disputes. In a subsequent letter (No. 312) he mentions Colonel Monson's death, whereby Hastings obtains a majority in the Supreme Council and is once more free to act. Sir Robert Fletcher, who has been ill for months with phthisis, is about to embark for the Cape, but there is little prospect of his recovery. The prognostication was fulfilled, for Fletcher died at Mauritius in December before reaching his destination. Baker assigns causes for the revolution (No. 311), and observes that Pigot failed to maintain a good understanding with Bengal, while members of the Majority corresponded privately with Clavering's party.

In 1777 a partial break occurs in the Palk correspondence, only four Indian letters of that year having been preserved. Sir Edward Hughes announces (No. 315) that a proposal to send Lord Pigot to England has been negatived, and says that the Directors' orders on the reports of the revolution are anxiously awaited. He states that Major General Bellecombe arrived in January as Governor of Pondicherry, and that M. Law is disgusted at being superseded. "Our friend Captain Baker" is engaged in carrying a pipe line through the surf to supply water to shipping. Chokappa writes (No. 314) that Bombay refuses to recognize Stratton as Governor of Madras. Baker observes (No. 316) that "Mr. Macpherson, a gentleman well known (and in some degree distinguished here, though of little standing in the Company's service)," is leaving for England

to support, it is understood, the cause of the Nawab. Tom Palk writes (No. 317) to announce his marriage to Catharine, daughter of Thomas Pelling of the firm of Pelling & de Fries. "With respect to her accompli[sh]ments it would be absurd in me to sound forth, but I must do her that justice to say that they are such as no man would make the least objection to."

During the interval which elapsed before the next letter of the collection was written several notable events occurred. After an attack of illness brought on by chill following violent exercise Lord Pigot was brought from the Mount to the Garden House, where, in spite of attention from Drs. Pasley and Anderson, he expired on the 11th May, 1777. An inquest was held by the Coroner, George Andrew Ram. The jury, of which George Smith was foreman, brought in a verdict of wilful murder against Stratton and the rest of the Majority, and also against Stuart, Edington, Lysaght and Horne. The verdict was delivered in July, but not published until September. Meanwhile, on the 31st August, John Whitehill arrived from England via Suez after a passage of only 79 days, bearing a despatch from the Directors, dated 11th June, addressed to "Lord Pigot, our President and Governor of Fort St. George," Thomas Rumbold, Major General Hector Munro, John Whitehill, Charles Smith, Samuel Johnson, Peter Perring and others. The Court denounced the subversion of the Government by the Majority, and ordered the reinstatement of Lord Pigot, which was, however, to be followed by his return to England by the first ship. His successor, Thomas Rumbold, was to be aided by a Council of only five members as named above. Stratton and the Majority were suspended and summoned home, as was Benfield, while Stuart was suspended for local enquiry into his conduct.

Confronted with the news of Lord Pigot's death, Whitehill found himself the senior member of the new Government and the only Councillor present at Madras. He summoned the two senior civil servants at the Presidency, Anthony Sadleir and Quintin Crauford, to assist him, and communicated the Directors' despatch to Stratton and the Majority, who at once submitted to the Court's orders. Whitehill assumed office as provisional Governor, and Smith, Johnson and Perring joined him from their out-stations. On the 24th September the Coroner delivered the inquest verdict, and the accused were committed for trial at Quarter Sessions. Advice was asked of the Supreme Court, and pending its receipt the trial proceeded. In due course Chief Justice Impey and the Judges delivered the opinion that the inquest afforded insufficient evidence for indictment. The proceedings were accordingly quashed. Stratton, Brooke, Floyer and Mackay were dealt with in England and fined 1,000*l.* each. Stuart remained under suspension until December 1780, when he was tried by court-martial for mutiny in arresting Lord Pigot. Of this charge he was acquitted on the ground that the seizure was made outside



the limits of the Fort, and therefore beyond the sphere of the Governor's military command.

The years 1778 and 1779 are covered by only sixteen letters. Baker writes (Nos. 320, 322) that Russell, Stone, Stratton and Brooke have already left for England, Russell marrying Leonora Pigot the day before embarkation. He reports progress on the fortifications of the east front of Fort St. George, and announces that Tom Palk, lately nominated Paymaster at Chingleput, has lost the appointment through the reinstatement of the civil servants who were suspended by Stratton. Tom Palk eventually received a similar post at Trichinopoly, and became a prosperous man. Baker attributes to Wynch certain modifications made in the original contract for water supply. "Mr. Wynch has done me an irreparable injury . . . I wish not to live for any other thing so much as to confront that man in a Court of Justice or in a General Court of Proprietors."

Thomas Rumbold and Major-General Hector Munro arrived at Madras on the 8th February, 1778 (No. 322), when the former took charge from Whitehill. Like Robert Clive, John Caillaud, Robert Barker, Richard Smith, John Carnac, Robert Fletcher and John Macpherson, Rumbold furnished an instance of a man trained in Madras, who after transfer to Bengal, rose to high position in the service. Originally appointed to Fort St. George as a Writer in 1752, Rumbold was shortly afterwards commissioned in the army. After serving under Lawrence in the Trichinopoly campaigns, he accompanied Clive to Calcutta, and was wounded at Plassey. Reverting to the civil list, he continued to serve in Bengal, and sat in Council for three years until 1769, when he returned to England and entered Parliament. He was a Director of the Company from 1772 until he was appointed Governor of Madras. Hector Munro came to India in 1761 as Major of the 89th Foot, and in 1764, when commanding the troops at Patna in succession to Carnac, defeated the combined forces of Mir Kāsim and the Nawab Vizier at the decisive battle of Buxar. He then returned home, and did not see India again until he came out in 1778 to command the Madras army. Sir Eyre Coote arrived at the end of the same year to be once more Commander-in-Chief in India.

Colonel Ironside, writing from Calcutta in March, 1778 (No. 324), fears supersession by officers from home, and asks for Palk's interest to procure him promotion to brigadier by brevet, with succession to Brig.-General Giles Stibbert. He encloses for Palk's perusal papers relating to General Clavering's attempted usurpation of the Government in 1777. Hastings had entrusted to his agent, Colonel Maclean, a letter of resignation, which was to be presented to the Directors only under certain conditions. A despatch from England, which reached Calcutta in June, disclosed the tender by Maclean of the letter, and the appointment by the Directors of Edward Wheler to fill a vacancy in the Council. Clavering immediately assumed the

Government, summoned Francis to sit in Council with him, and required Hastings to give up charge. Hastings consulted the Judges, who declared Clavering's act to be illegal. The Council then resolved that the General had by his proceeding vacated his seat. Further appeals to the Judges by Clavering and Francis elicited an opinion favourable to the General on this point, and the Council rescinded their resolution.

Clavering's death shortly afterwards is reported by Henry Vansittart, jun., (No. 325), who expresses the view that the Supreme Court is assuming authority which overrides the Governor General's powers. He mentions the intrigues of the French with the Marathas, and the intended despatch of a force from Bengal to Bombay. A person calling himself the Chevalier St. Lubin was the French agent at Poona. This adventurer was formerly attached as an intelligence officer to the British Field Deputies in the first Mysore war, but was discredited. In May, 1777, he appeared at Poona as a genuine representative of the King of France, bearing letters and gifts for the Peshwa. On promise of French aid Nana Farnavis, the principal Maratha Minister, granted St. Lubin the use of the port of Chaul, where he hoisted French colours (No. 322). Jealousy of Nana Farnavis had led to the formation of a Maratha party pledged to restore Raghoba to power. The Bombay Government supported the party, and Hastings, disliking Colonel Upton's treaty, agreed to assist. An expedition under Colonel Leslie, who was soon superseded by Colonel Thomas Goddard, started in 1778 to march across India to Poona or the coast with the ostensible object of protecting Bombay from French aggression. The Bombay Government co-operated by despatching a force towards Poona under Colonel Charles Egerton, whom they hampered with Field Deputies. When nearing Poona in January, 1779, Egerton was surrounded by the enemy and compelled to surrender. An agreement, known as the Convention of Wargaon, was made between the Marathas and the Field Deputies, by which Raghoba was to be given up, and all British conquests made subsequent to 1765 were to be restored. This convention was disavowed by the Bombay Government. Meanwhile Goddard, who had diverted his course from Poona, arrived at Surat in February. There he was joined by a contingent from Madras (No. 336). Raghoba, who had fallen into the hands of Mahādaji Sindia, escaped from custody in June, 1779, and reached Goddard at Surat.

In March, 1778, war had broken out between England and France, and in July Fort St. George received instructions from home to attack Pondicherry. Edward Cotsford, returning to Madras in August after a visit to England, and ignorant of the state of war, relates (No. 329) how his ship was chased by the enemy for 20 miles until she fell in with the squadron under Sir Edward Vernon, who had relieved Hughes in the preceding year. Siege operations were begun at the end of August under the

direction of Major William Stevens, the acting Chief Engineer, and on the 17th October, when the assault was about to be delivered, General Bellecombe, the Governor, capitulated (No. 331). Chokappa quotes (Nos. 330, 332) the terms of surrender, and the arrangements for the disposal of the prisoners. Among the British killed were Major Stevens, Captain Augustus De Morgan, and Ensign George Baker, the last being the son of Palk's friend of the same name. Despatches were immediately carried home by Captain William Rumbold, son of the Governor. Munro was knighted and Thomas Rumbold created a baronet. The Pondicherry fortifications were demolished during 1779.

The French settlement of Mahé, near Tellicherry, was reduced in March, 1779, by an expedition from Madras under Colonel Brathwaite. The operation gave umbrage to Haidar, who received his military stores through that port. Notwithstanding the failure of the British to fulfil the terms of the Mount treaty of 1769, Haidar had proposed alliance in 1771, and again after the conquest of Tanjore in 1773, but his advances, owing to Walajah's implacable enmity, were repelled. In 1775 he definitely ranged himself with the French, and four years later announced that he would join them in defending Mahé. In November, 1779, nine passengers from England via Suez, including two ladies (No. 337), were seized by Haidar from a Danish ship at Calicut, and seven of them were sent to Seringapatam.<sup>(1)</sup> Mr. George Gray, formerly of the Bengal civil service, was despatched from Madras to Haidar's capital to procure their release and promote an alliance with Mysore. The prisoners were liberated before Gray's arrival, but the envoy was informed that his proposals came too late.

Basālat Jang continuing to recruit the French force in his service, Rumbold opened direct negotiations with him. Basālat agreed in 1779 to dismiss the force and transfer Guntūr to the British, provided the Company would protect his dominions and send a force at once to his capital, Adoni. This agreement, involving a breach of the treaty of 1768, incensed the Nizam. Basālat's French contingent went over to the ruler of the Deccan and eventually to Haidar Ali. A force under Colonel Humphrey Harper was ordered to Adoni from the Circars. Its route lay through territories ruled by Haidar, but permission to pass was not sought in advance. Harper found the road barred, and he fell back. The attempt to penetrate his country gave Haidar an additional grievance. Meanwhile Rumbold rented Guntūr to Walajah (No. 335), and sent John Hollond to Hyderabad to claim the abolition of the tribute payable for the Circars. This proposal exasperated Nizam Ali, who saw the treaty of 1768 flouted in all its terms. Hollond reported the situation to Hastings, and was directed to withdraw the demand. Rumbold suspended Hollond for disobedience, but the Bengal Council

(1) The other two, Mr. and Mrs. Fay, were detained at Calicut, and released after three months' captivity. (*Original Letters from India*, Mrs. Fay, 1817.)



reinstated him with credentials from themselves. Sir Thomas Rumbold, having thus embroiled himself with Haidar, the Nizam and the Supreme Government at the very time when war subsisted with the powerful Maratha state, announced that his health necessitated his immediate return to England. He sailed in April, 1780, delivering charge of the Government to the senior Councillor, John Whitehill.

Some events of Rumbold's administration are mentioned in the few Madras letters of the period. Philip Stowey, who was sent out by the Directors in 1778 as Civil Architect, writes (No. 331) of plans for the enlargement of Admiralty House in the Fort. He has been consulted about the palace at Chempauk which Walajah is building "in the Moorish stile," but fears that the Nawab "has gone too far to be prevailed on to alter it." D'Fries (Nos. 333, 334, 336) alludes to the death of Colonel Maclean in England, and of Mahfuz Khan, the Nawab's elder brother, in India. He states that Walajah's finances are seriously embarrassed, and that his numerous European creditors in India and England cannot obtain payment of interest on their loans. The Madras Treasury is depleted owing to the heavy cost of the fortifications, and Haidar's attitude is suspicious. Fearing trouble, Pelling & de Fries counsel Palk to limit his interests in the East. "We think your property will be safer nearer you than at a distance. India is a country of revolution, and we think we shall always be subject to it." Edward Cotsford writes in 1778 (No. 329) of the "small abilities of the present Governor and Council," and complains that his own authority is prejudiced by Rumbold's summoning to Madras the Zemindars of the Circars. A year later Tom Palk says (No. 335) that the Zemindars were called up to be squeezed, and that they have in their turn squeezed the ryots relentlessly. Corruption is rampant in Madras, and gaming prevalent. "The Guntoor Circar the Nabob is to have, or has it. The Jaghire in December last was advertized to be lett, but it did not take place because of course the Nabob paid handsomely for it.<sup>(1)</sup> . . . Never was a man so universally disliked" as Sir Thomas, who is not even courteous to his friends. Tom Palk dined recently with the Governor, who sat down to a rubber with Hall Plumer, a civil servant, and two subalterns. Directly play began dinner was announced, and 60 guests were kept waiting until the game was finished. In January, 1780, the same correspondent writes (No. 337) lamenting the continuance of his uncle's displeasure. Nothing has come of Rumbold's promises of employment. "I do, Sir, assure you that a King of France was never so absolute as he is here. Everything he proposes is carried without the least opposition." The Company is rapidly going to ruin. Sir Edward Hughes has just arrived with a squadron to relieve Sir Edward Vernon, who goes

(1) The Nawab rented the *Jagir* and Poonamallee for 3½ lakhs of pagodas per annum.

home in an Indiaman. Colonel Goddard has taken the field against the Marathas. D'Fries, adverting to Rumbold's impending departure and Whitehill's succession, says (No. 338), "I hope nothing will happen to require the exertion of extraordinary abilities, for I believe they will not be found in our Council." The Marathas have seized Captains Banks and Bonnevaux while these officers were on their way from England via Basra with despatches. Stephen Sullivan, who came out to Madras about 1778 as Secretary and Persian Translator, informs Palk (No. 339) that his health is as good "as when I \* partook of red mullets with you in Devonshire." He finds the emoluments of the secretaryship insufficient to meet the high cost of living at the Presidency, and has asked his father to obtain for him a seat in Council or the post of Resident at Tanjore. He thinks that Laurence Sullivan is wrong in his favourable estimate of Walajah's character. He himself considers the Nawab artful, ambitious and ungrateful, and says that Macpherson will have difficulty in proving him otherwise. About this time Robert Palk must have relaxed his displeasure with his nephew, for George Baker writes in February, 1780 (No. 340), that Tom Palk "is made happy by your kind remembrance of him." Baker sends his letter by a private hand via Suez, but fears it may fail to reach its destination, as "it is very doubtfull whether (after what has past) an Englishman may be suffered to pass unmolested through Egypt with a packet." He adds that Sir Edward Hughes "is the same good man as ever," and that Palk's nephew, Richard Welland, who is "a charming youth, modest, manly and discreet," has been commissioned a lieutenant.

As has been noticed, the letters in the Palk collection from the beginning of 1777 are few in number. Between February, 1780, and February, 1784, only a single communication from India is found. The hiatus is unfortunate, as many notable events occurred in the interval, particularly in Madras. Since the blank period coincides with the duration of the second Mysore war, the surmise is hazarded that the letters of the time may have been handed to some historian or other interested person, who failed to return them. The following outline of events will serve to transport the reader across the gap without giving him too severe a jolt.

The escape of Raghoba from the clutches of Mahādaji Sindia and his junction with Goddard prompted the Marathas to propose alliance with Haidar and the Nizam, and a powerful confederacy was formed, which had for its object the expulsion of the English from India. Haidar was to attack Fort St. George through the Carnatic; Nizam Ali to invade the Circars; Mudaji of Berar to enter Bengal; Sindia and Holkar were to dispose of Colonel Goddard, while the Poona Ministers dealt with Bombay. Goddard, however, proved too strong for his adversaries; Major Popham took by assault Sindia's rock

fortress of Gwalior, deemed impregnable ; Hastings converted the Raja of Berar from a foe to a friend, and detached Nizam Ali from the confederacy by ordering the restoration of Guntūr to Basālat Jang. There remained the implacable Haidar. Whitehill and his Council, blind to portents and deaf to warnings, took no measures of security. On the 20th July, 1780, Haidar issued from the pass of Changama with 90,000 men. An advanced party seized Porto Novo ; another raided San Thomé and the suburbs of the capital. For 50 miles round Madras and 15 round Vellore the country was devastated. The British army assembled at Conjeveram under Sir Hector Munro, who directed Colonel William Baillie to join him with a force from Guntūr. When near Conjeveram Baillie was intercepted by Tipu at Polilur, and his detachment was annihilated. Munro retreated to Madras harassed by the enemy. Stephen Sullivan was deputed to Bengal to entreat help. Hastings immediately sent Eyre Coote to take command at Madras, and a force was despatched under Colonel Thomas Deane Pearse to march down to the Carnatic through Ganjam. Coote reached Fort St. George on the 5th November, bearing orders for the suspension of Whitehill for disobedience in failing to restore Guntūr ; and Charles Smith, the senior Councillor, became provisional Governor.

Coote took the field in January, 1781, relieved Wandewash, which had been gallantly defended by Lieut. William Flint, and on the 1st July defeated Haidar in a pitched battle at Porto Novo. Early in August he was joined by Pearse's Bengal contingent, and on the 15th he worsted the enemy at Polilur, the scene of Baillie's disaster. After a further success at Sholingarh he relieved Vellore, defended by Colonel Ross Lang. Lord Macartney, who arrived as Governor of Madras on the 22nd June, 1781, brought news of war between England and Holland. Munro, with the co-operation of Hughes's squadron, took Negapatam in October. The other Dutch settlements on the coast, Tuticorin, Sadras, Pulicat and Bimlipatam, were also captured. The Dutch port of Trincomalee in Ceylon was taken by Hughes early in 1782, but was surrendered to a French naval force six months later. In January, 1782, Eyre Coote had an apoplectic seizure, but continued to command. Shortly afterwards Colonel Brathwaite sustained a severe reverse in Tanjore. A French fleet under Admiral Suffren appeared on the coast, and was repeatedly, though indecisively, engaged by Hughes. Bombay troops operated in Malabar, and Haidar was preparing to evacuate the Carnatic when the landing in March of a substantial French force at Porto Novo induced him to change his plans. Cuddalore surrendered to Tipu and the French in April. Suffren earned lasting obloquy by delivering to Haidar at Cuddalore in June the British crews of his prizes.

The cost of the war drained the Company's treasuries in the



three Presidencies. In 1781 Walajah sent his Diwan, accompanied by Richard Sullivan, to Calcutta, where an agreement was concluded on the 2nd April by which the Nawab assigned the whole of his revenues to the Company for the period of the war. At a later date Macartney objected to relinquish the assignment, and on this and other grounds there was friction between him and Hastings. Chait Sing, tributary Raja of Benares, refusing to aid with supplies, Hastings visited his capital in August, 1781, and after a rising in which the Governor General narrowly escaped with his life, deposed the Raja. Hastings next effected a settlement with the young Nawab of Oudh. On the death of Shuja-ud-daula in 1775, his son Asaf-ud-daula had succeeded as ruler, but the old man's treasure was seized by his mother and widow, the Begams of Oudh, whose claims were recognized by the majority in the Bengal Council. In September, 1781, Hastings reversed their decision, compelled the Begams to make restitution, and thus enabled Asaf-ud-daula to discharge his debt to the Company.

On the 17th May, 1782, Hastings concluded with Sindia, as the representative of the Maratha federation, the Treaty of Salbai, by which the possession of Salsette was guaranteed to the English, Raghoba was pensioned, and the son of Narāyan Rao was acknowledged as Peshwa. Haidar had now no friends but the French. Munro resigned and sailed for England. Coote, worn out, returned to Bengal in September. The command devolved on General James Stuart, who had lost a leg at the second battle of Polilur. In December Haidar died of carbuncle at Chittoor.

Meanwhile Bombay had rendered help. In January, 1782, Major Abington won success at Tellicherry, and Colonel Humberstone, after reducing Calicut, inflicted a further defeat on the Mysore forces in April. Towards the end of the year General Richard Mathews, formerly of the Madras army but now commanding in Malabar, took Honāvar and marched to Bednur, which he occupied without resistance in January, 1783. Mangalore fell to the British a little later. These successes brought Tipu from Coromandel to Malabar. Bednur, which he besieged with his whole army, surrendered on the 3rd May. The garrison, in breach of terms, was sent to Srīngapatam, where Mathews died in confinement. Tipu then invested Mangalore, which was defended by Colonel John Campbell of the 42nd Highlanders. Sir Eyre Coote arrived once more at Madras on the 24th April, 1783, but succumbed to illness three days later. Stuart unsuccessfully attacked Bussy at Cuddalore in June, but hostilities with the French ceased on the 2nd July after news had been received of the conclusion of peace in Europe. The British commander, who had shown insubordination to the Madras Government, was dismissed the Company's service, and on his attempting to give orders to the King's troops, was arrested by Macartney and forcibly deported. This proceeding prompted

Amir-ul-Umarā's *mot*, "Once General Stuart catch one Lord, now one Lord catch General Stuart." The command of the Madras army then devolved on General Ross Lang, a Company's officer. Colonel William Fullarton operated successfully against Tipu's possessions in Dindigul and Coimbatore, and at length the Mysore ruler consented to negotiate for peace. The Commissioners, Anthony Sadleir, George Staunton and John Hudleston, left Madras in November, 1783, but their passage through Mysore was artfully checked until Mangalore was starved into surrender in the following January after a gallant defence by Campbell for nine months against Tipu's main army. On arriving at their destination the Commissioners found three gibbets erected opposite their respective tents. They were loaded with contumely, but at length, on the 11th March, 1784, the Treaty of Mangalore was signed, which provided for the release of captives and mutual restitution of conquests. The survivors of the prisoners at Srirangapatam and other places, to the number of about 1,150 British and 3,000 sepoys, were restored.

From 1784 the series of Indian letters to Sir Robert Palk, who had been created a baronet in 1782, recommences. There is however an isolated letter of 1783 (No. 343) from Henry Preston, a Bengal cadet and one of Palk's many *protégés*, who landed at Madras after a voyage of only 4 months and 10 days. He mentions the death of Haidar Ali and of Sir Eyre Coote, as well as a recent naval engagement between Hughes and Suffren. Besides this communication there is a batch of documents relating to the homeward voyage of Robert Palk, jun., his death during the passage, and the difficulties encountered in delivering his effects to his relations in England. These papers deserve notice as illustrating the conditions of travel of the period.

Robert Palk, jun., after suffering several seizures of an epileptic character, was advised by the Calcutta doctors to go to England. Passage was taken for him in the *Surprise*, commander David Asquith, a country vessel owned by Colonel Watson of Calcutta, and bound for Limerick with a packet for the Company. Dr. Adam Burt was specially engaged by Government to attend the sick man during the voyage. The ship carried only one other passenger, Major John McGowan, who had accompanied Colonel Pearce's Bengal contingent to Madras and served at the second battle of Polihur. The *Surprise* sailed from Calcutta early in April, 1783. Dr. Burt supplies (No. 342) Palk's medical case, and records a diary of events, symptoms and treatment until the death of his patient on the 20th May. The deceased's "bureau and escritoire" were opened by the captain in the presence of Dr. Burt and Major McGowan, and an inventory was made of the money and jewellery found therein. Captain Asquith, however, removed all papers.

On the 10th September the *Surprise* anchored in the Port of Limerick, 20 miles below the town. Dr. Burt, ignorant of Sir Robert Palk's name and address, wrote a letter to his own agents, Messrs. Webster of Leadenhall Street, reporting the occurrences of the voyage for the information of the relatives of the deceased (No. 344). He alludes to the impropriety of Captain Asquith's conduct, especially in regard to the abstraction of papers, mentions that two servants of Robert Palk, a European and a Bengali, are on board, and proposes to remain at Limerick until he receives instructions how to act. At the same time Dr. Burt entrusted to Major McGowan, who intended to seek out Palk's relations, a memorandum (No. 345) for their information, together with an inventory of effects. In the former he mentions that Robert Palk, notwithstanding that he had paid Rs. 10,000 for his passage, was constrained by the captain, after the ship had sailed, to promise a further sum of Rs. 1,500 for the passage of the doctor. Burt advises that any claim made for this sum should be resisted, because he, at the captain's request, attended the sick of the ship's company and thus became entitled to free passage. Dr. Burt adds that the captain and officers throughout the voyage subsisted exclusively on the stores brought on board by the two passengers, and especially on Palk's ample supplies. The list of those stores comprises 122 chests containing provisions in great variety, wines, spirits and cigars, with a moderate quantity of plate, saddlery, clothing and books. His live stock embraced 30 sheep, 10 hogs, 5 deer, 12 turkeys, 26 geese, 30 ducks and 220 fowls. An inventory of the money and jewellery found in the bureau is also given.

About the same time Captain Asquith wrote (No. 346) to Sir Robert Palk in Bruton Street, reporting his nephew's death, the particulars of which are to be communicated verbally by the chief mate, John Nimmo, who carries the Company's packet to London. Asquith also alludes to the promise of payment of Rs. 1,500 for Burt's passage. After hearing from Sir Robert Dr. Burt writes early in October (No. 348) explaining Asquith's solicitude about the deceased's papers. Asquith had lately commanded a vessel chartered from Bengal to Madras and insured with Robert Palk and others. For private reasons the captain took his ship down to Trincomalee, where she was captured and condemned as a prize, the loss falling on the owners. After possessing himself of Palk's papers on board the *Surprise* Asquith hinted that a claim against the underwriters might be revived. Burt reports that all the effects are now in security, and adds that the captain threatened to flog Palk's European servant for refusing to relinquish his original list of stores.

The papers and valuables were ultimately handed to Dr. Burt (No. 351). The agent for the ship refused to carry the baggage round to London, and the doctor, after making formal protest, landed the cases, 32 in number, and delivered them sealed to Sexton Baylie, the Surveyor of Customs. Burt was



assisted by Captain Sober Hall, of Limerick, who was known to Sir Robert. Hall suggested (No. 352) that Palk should obtain an order from the Treasury to the Commissioners of Customs to allow the cases to be reshipped on another vessel for London without examination. The day following the deposit of the baggage Burt found most of the seals broken. Baylie, declaring that he would open everything, went off to Dublin to lay an information before the Commissioners based on statements made by the ship's agents regarding the contents of the cases (No. 357). The doctor engaged a local attorney, Henry McMahon, to watch Palk's interest, and himself posted to London. Sir Robert being absent, probably in Devonshire, Burt left the papers and valuables at his house in Bruton Street on the 31st October, with a report of progress.

Meanwhile Baylie, on his return from Dublin, made a seizure of the effects. McMahon ascertained that the Seizing Note, though filed on the 3rd November, was dated 15th October, so as to ensure the lapse of the legal interval for making a claim before Sir Robert could submit one. McMahon himself tendered a claim, which was rejected, and he then petitioned the Commissioners. He suggests that Sir Robert should approach Mr. Pery, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons and a connection of Baylie's, who might curb the Surveyor's pestilent activities (Nos. 358, 361). Time was granted by the Commissioners, and Sober Hall remarks (No. 363), "Thus far is Mr. Bailie disappointed, who flattered himself with the notion of accelerating matters so as to have the goods condemned and sold before there would be either a claim or trial." The Surveyor, however, "broke open every chest and package belonging to Mr. Palk, rummaged and tossed the whole of his effects" (No. 365). Dr. Burt in London made an affidavit before the Lord Mayor of the circumstances under which the goods were landed and delivered to Baylie (No. 366). The *Surprise* sailed for London early in November, carrying Palk's Indian servant.

Not until the middle of January were the effects released and sent to Dublin in charge of the European servant, William Young (No. 369). George Maunsell, the Collector of Limerick, writes to Sir Robert (No. 370) that he has settled Baylie's account for 40*l.*, accepting a bill drawn by Young on Thomas Maunsell of Dublin. The last named will forward the goods to London. Thomas Maunsell, who had been in 1757 an agent for the army in Bengal and was a friend of Sir Robert's, reports early in February that William Young was, during his journey from Limerick, "taken up on a suspicion of being a highway man" and brought before a magistrate. Young stated in examination that he had drawn a bill for 40*l.* on Thomas Maunsell. The magistrate, Luke Flood, wrote for confirmation to Maunsell, who by good fortune was staying weatherbound in the vicinity. Young was in due course discharged, "but lost his pistols by

the villainy of the people." The weapons were eventually recovered. By the middle of February Maunsell obtained an order for the effects, which had been deposited in the Dublin Custom House, to be shipped for London in charge of William Young.

Indian letters to Sir Robert Palk from the termination of the second Mysore war down to the end of 1786 have been preserved. The principal correspondents are, in the Southern Presidency, Tom Palk, Pelling & de Fries, George Baker and the faithful Chokappa; and in Bengal, Henry Vansittart, jun., Thomas Abraham and Abraham Welland.

Writing in February, 1784, Tom Palk, who is now Paymaster at Trichinopoly, states (No. 372) that after the restoration to Tipu of Palghāt, a strong place captured by Colonel Fullarton in the preceding November, the garrison was attacked by a tributary poligar and sustained considerable loss. In September Chokappa alludes (No. 378) to the conclusion of peace, and the return of the Commissioners from Mangalore; while George Baker announces (No. 377) that the final settlement with Tipu has been completed by his delivery of the forts of Sātgarh and Ambur in return for Dindigul. Colonel Pearse's contingent, with which Captain John Kennaway is serving, is in Ganjam on its march back to Bengal. Cuddalore and Trincomalee are still held by the French, while the British retain Pondicherry. The delay in transfer was due to a contention by the French that their cession of Trincomalee was to be only formal, pending its immediate restoration to the Dutch. This view was disputed, and the matter was referred to the home authorities. Baker adds that money is scarce in Madras, and that the pay of both civil and military servants is in arrear. Reform in the system of government is greatly needed. "God send that that which may be adopted may be perfect in proportion to the great length of time that has been bestowed on the investigation of the subject." John Sullivan, Resident at Tanjore, who is about to retire, is said to have made a large fortune by providing stores for the army during the war. Baker alludes also to Hastings's tour in the provinces to settle the affairs of Oudh. At Lucknow the Governor General met the Mogul's eldest son, who had escaped thither from Delhi to entreat British assistance for his father. The aid which Hastings was disposed to give was vetoed by the Council.

Chokappa reports (No. 378) that Lord Macartney is in disagreement with the Supreme Government regarding the Nawab's affairs, and on bad terms with Walajah himself; "but his Lordship is very honest and do[es] not receive any present nor allowance from any body." The Nawab complains bitterly (No. 379) of the Governor's attitude, declaring that "Lord Macartney has brought utter ruin upon all the affairs of his employers." Large sums from Carnatic revenues have, he asserts, been dissipated, for particulars of which Sir Robert Palk

is referred to James Macpherson, who had become Walajah's agent in England on the nomination of his cousin John Macpherson to the Supreme Council. The Nawab has a special grievance about the transfer of certain territory to the French. The recent treaty between England and France provided that the village lands of Villenour and Bahour should be ceded to Pondicherry. Walajah unwillingly assented, but is aggrieved that the actual transfer was made by the Governor without any recognition of the Nawab's ownership. Macartney, he says, claimed sovereign rights, but even Bussy, an enemy, declined to accept the Governor's contention.

Early in 1784 Tom Palk's eldest son Tom was sent home to the care of Sir Robert, the sum of Pags. 500 being paid for his passage (No. 372). In October his mother hopes (No. 381) that he has safely arrived. She would like a portrait of him sent out. The next child, Catharine, aged four, will go to England by the next opportunity. When the time comes for Robert, the youngest, to follow, he will, she trusts, be accompanied by his parents. She refers to "the loss of our valuable brother" in the *Surprise*. Her letter occupied a year in transit owing to delay in despatch of the ship *Pigot*. Tom Palk writes at the same time (No. 382) that the Supreme Council do not entirely approve of the Treaty of Mangalore, because the Nawab is not a party to it, and they have desired the Madras Select Committee to negotiate for a revision. The present Government of Fort St. George, he says, "gives general dissatisfaction and disgust."

George Baker reports (Nos. 383, 388) the existence of a mutinous spirit in the army due to non-issue of arrears of pay and threatened withdrawal of batta. The pay of the Company's troops was in fact twelve months behind time. Batta, drawn by both King's and Company's forces, was to cease in part from the 1st October, 1784, and wholly three months later. In September the 36th Regiment took up arms, but submitted after a ringleader had been blown from a gun. In January, 1785, the 52nd Foot mutinied at Poonamallee. Baker considers that but for the suspension of the obnoxious orders regarding batta a general mutiny would have occurred. The bulk of the army was at Arcot under Brig-General Matthew Horne. The King's officers having complained of the Commandant's privilege of selling arrack to the troops, it was ruled that future supplies should be made by contract; and Horne was transferred to the Southern command. At a meeting of the Select Committee in September, 1784, a personal dispute arose between the Governor and Anthony Sadleir. Sadleir challenged Macartney, and a duel with pistols ensued, in which Macartney was wounded, though not severely. Baker adds that Thomas Abraham, a connection of Sir Robert Palk, has arrived at Madras on his way to Bengal. His ship "has been remarkably healthy, haveing not buried a man since she left England."



The same correspondent writes in January that a copy of Pitt's India Bill has been received. Lord Macartney waits to hear that the bill has been passed before deciding to depart or not, but he keeps a vessel ready. Baker mentions the sudden death at Pondicherry of the Marquis de Bussy, which occurred on the 7th January. "A small American ship (the first belonging to the United States) from Philadelphia arrived at Pondicherry on the 26th of last month. The Captain and supracargoe have been here, and are just gone back to that place."

Orders were received from the Supreme Government in January, 1785, for the mutual rendition, as between the British, French and Dutch, of places taken during the war, and Charles Floyer was appointed English Commissary for the transfer. Pondicherry and Cuddalore were restored at once (No. 389). Pelling & de Fries report in June (No. 400) that Trincomalee has been delivered to the Dutch, who, however, have not yet taken possession of their coast factories owing to their war with the Malays. The Dutch power is considered to be on the decline. The French are limiting themselves to commerce, keep only a small garrison at Pondicherry and make no attempt to reconstruct the defences.

The deplorable effects of the war are noticed by several correspondents. George Baker writes in October, 1784 (No. 383), that the Carnatic is desolated, depopulated, uncultivated and deprived of its manufactures, while its stock of cattle is exhausted. Tom Palk says in the following May (No. 399) that "from the Colleroon to Arcot the country is almost laid waste from the want of inhabitants to cultivate." The cost of the war fell heavily on all the Presidencies. In Madras the Government could not meet the salaries of their civil servants or the pay of the army. The troops were mutinous. Money was scarce and credit low. William Wynch writes early in 1785 (No. 390), "It is now with the greatest difficulty even a trifling loan can be obtained from a black man." Arrears of salary are paid in bills, which are at 50 per cent. discount, yet Lord Macartney draws his full stipend in coin. "Nothing but the most disagreeable circumstances have attended us lately, duels, dissensions in Council, and mutiny among the King's troops." Pelling & de Fries report in June (No. 400) that the Company's debt in India is upwards of seven millions sterling, to clear which not less than fifteen years of peace are needed. The Company's bonds stand in Madras at 40 per cent. discount, in Bengal at 25 per cent., and in Bombay, where no interest has been paid for four years, at 70 per cent. Tom Palk alludes (No. 401) to the distressed condition of the sepoy at Trichinopoly: "Believe me, Sir, I have seen the native troops perishing in the streets, selling their children for a rupee, and it is not a month ago that they were begging about the cantonments almost in the same condition."

In Bengal salaries were ruthlessly cut down. Abraham Welland writes in December, 1785 (No. 407), that Richard Kennaway's monthly income is reduced from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 500, while his own modest stipend has been diminished by Rs. 400. Many civil servants have resigned; some to reside at the foreign settlements of Serampore, Chinsurah and Chander-nagore, where living is cheap; others to return to Europe. The commander of one Indianman has received no less than a lakh and a half of rupees for passenger fares alone. Welland adds that a petition to the House of Commons is being drawn up at Calcutta protesting against certain clauses of the India Act of 1784. A year earlier the same correspondent was discoursing (No. 380) to his uncle Sir Robert on the minimum number of indispensable servants. "How very much times are altered since you was in India, when a person was satisfied with one or two servants! I can assure you a Writer in Bengal can not now exist under an establishment of less than thirty. The goodness of Mr. Hastings to the black people has lain us under this imposition."

Henry Vansittart, jun., alludes in December, 1784 (No. 386), to his marriage in the preceding year to Catherine Powney, and the birth of a son. Hastings, who returned from tour to find that he had "had the misfortune to lose his only friend in Council, Mr. Wheeler," has announced his approaching departure from India. Vansittart & Kennaway ask (No. 387) for instructions regarding the estate of Robert Palk, jun. The only property remaining in India is a house in Calcutta worth Rs. 50,000 and some Company's bonds. Palk's legacy of 2,000*l.* to his brother Tom is set off by the latter's debt of practically equal amount. Their relatives, however, subsequently consented to annul this debt, as well as one incurred by Abraham Welland to extricate his brother Richard from difficulties due to extravagance (Nos. 414, 452). Rawson Hart Boddam, Governor of Bombay, writes in March, 1785 (No. 394), about a debt to Sir Robert Palk from the estate of the late E. V. Lane. He deplors the departure of Hastings, and observes that the recent reduction of the Council to a Governor, two civilians and the Commander-in-Chief affects the prospects of the senior servants in Bombay, who would retire if they could. He adds that "the late rapid progress and success that has attended Mahadjee Sindia in now being possessed of the whole power at the Court of Dilly . . . forebodes no very favourable prospects from so able and enterprizing a genius."

Major John Shortt writes to Sir Robert from Madras (No. 391) that his promotion has been stopped for some reason which he is unable to elicit. "I cannot charge myself with any thing more than being too hospitable heretofore, which, as it has proved prejudicial to my interest, I will in future study to correct". Sitarām Pandit, revenue accountant of Vizagapatam, draws attention (No. 392) to the persistent oppression of the

landholders of the Chicacole Circar by the powerful and truculent Zemindar Sitarām Rāz, and encloses copies of petitions which had been submitted to Rumbold, Macartney and Hastings. Captain Francis Swain Ward, a well known Indian artist, furnishes Richard Kennaway (No. 396) with a receipt for subscription to the publication of his *Views of Hindoo Temples, Buildings, etc.*; while a painter of greater distinction, Ozias Humphry, writes in May, 1785, from the Cape, on his way to India, bemoaning the retirement of Hastings, the death of Wheler, and the departure of Sir John D'Oyly, to all of whom he carried letters, and entreating Sir Robert Palk to recommend him to the succeeding Governor General (No. 397).

In May, 1785, orders were received from home directing the surrender of Walajah's assignment in consideration of an annual payment by him of Pags. 12 lakhs on account of his debt to the Company and private creditors and Pags. 4 lakhs towards current charges (No. 403). Pelling & de Fries give credit to Colonel John Call (No. 400) for his efforts on behalf of the creditors. Lord Macartney was so dissatisfied with the Court's orders that he sailed for Bengal on the 4th June, resigning from Vizagapatam on the 8th. Pending the arrival of his successor, the Chair was occupied by Alexander Davidson, who had Sir John Dalling, Commander-in-Chief, and James Daniell as his Councillors. General Robert Sloper, Commander-in-Chief in India, also had a seat in Council during his stay in Madras. Pelling & de Fries say that Macartney's departure was accelerated by his reluctance to associate with Amir-ul-Umarā, who was managing the Nawab's affairs. A despatch nominating Lord Macartney Governor General reached Madras on the 16th July and was forwarded at once to Calcutta, but he declined the appointment and sailed for England on the 10th August (No. 403). John Macpherson accordingly remained in control of the Supreme Government. Abraham Welland remarks of Macpherson (No. 409) that "his abilities are no ways suited to it, nor indeed are any of his coadjutors, particularly Mr. Stables, whose head is too thick ever to cut a conspicuous figure." The Madras Government, before surrendering the assignment, demanded security from the Nawab for the payment of the stipulated 16 lakhs of pagodas. This he was unable to furnish (No. 403), but by January, 1786, he was faithfully executing his contract (No. 412). Pelling & de Fries say that "the distresses of individuals from not having received any part of the Nabob's debt for so long a space of time are great, and affect the trade and welfare of the Settlement." The Government continued to be in financial difficulty; arrears of army pay were still outstanding, Company's bonds stood at a heavy discount, and no funds were available for the Investment. The writers add that James Daniell, who is retiring, will be replaced in Council by Charles Floyer. Daniell was nominated by the Directors to succeed the next Governor, but he sailed the day before the news reached Madras (No. 422).



Not long after the conclusion of the Treaty of Mangalore there were rumours of approaching trouble between Tipu on one side and the Marathas and Nizam on the other (No. 383). Tipu set up a claim to Bijapur in the Nizam's dominions, while the Marathas, who hoped for British aid (No. 403), pressed for arrears of tribute from Mysore. Pelling & de Fries, writing in January, 1786 (No. 412), say that Madras has had no trading intercourse with Mysore since the peace, the passes from the Carnatic being jealously guarded by Tipu. A report of the Sultan's death (Nos. 412, 430), sedulously spread by himself, was commonly credited, and Macpherson even despatched an envoy to the supposed new ruler. Tom Palk says in March (No. 431), "The Nizam and Marattoes have actually taken the field with a view of attacking Tippoo, who is not dead as was the general belief for two months . . . From hence you may infer that we keep ourselves exceedingly ignorant of what passes beyond even the walls of Madras . . . I cannot penetrate Tippoo's real design by feigning himself dead and keeping the gates of Seringapatam shut for so long a time, which we know beyond a doubt to have happened." Pelling & de Fries write (No. 432), "Storms brewing around us. A formidable army of the Marattas . . . together with the Nizam's army have crossed the Kistna and invaded Tippoo's country . . . Tippoo has a very considerable force, but from his tyrannical disposition don't stand so well in the affection of his subjects as old Hyder did, whose political abilities were infinitely superior." The same correspondents mention in June (No. 441) that the Nizam had returned to Hyderabad, though his army remained to co-operate with the Marathas (No. 456). Instead of directly facing his enemies, Tipu made a diversion by devastating the district of Adoni, which had passed to the Nizam on the death of his brother Basālat Jang. Desperately defended by Muhābat Jang, son of Basālat, Adoni fort was relieved by the confederates at the end of June, but was immediately evacuated (No. 460). Operations were then transferred to the north of the Tungabhadra, and continued till the close of the year (Nos. 467, 469). Tipu was generally successful, but he nevertheless negotiated with Holkar for peace, and a treaty was concluded in January, 1787.

Davidson continued to occupy the Madras Chair pending the appointment of a permanent successor to Macartney. Tom Palk writes (No. 422), "Lord M. is certainly very culpable in leaving the Chair to so weak and indolent a man as fills it at present, that never was capable of conducting even his own domestick affairs." And (No. 431), "Every one is dissatisfied, and looking out with the most painful anxiety [for] the speedy arrival of Governor Campbell." Pelling & de Fries say (No. 432), "We want much an able Governor: our present administration is but a feeble one." Major-General Sir Archibald Campbell, an officer of the Royal Engineers, who had been

Chief Engineer of Bengal, had served in North America and had been Governor of Jamaica, arrived on the 6th April, 1786, and assumed charge of the Madras Government. A few months later he was also appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Coast army (No. 460), whereupon Sir John Dalling returned to England. A change was also made in Bengal, where Macpherson's rule was no more acceptable to Thomas Abraham than was Davidson's in Madras to Thomas Palk. Abraham writes (No. 425), "I see everything still goes by interest notwithstanding the late Act of Parliament. I can convince you of this no better than by telling you that the greatest part of the many appointments that have been given away lately have been given to Scotchmen." And (No. 434), "It is a Scotch Government, and very few but Scotchmen get any thing." Lord Cornwallis arrived at Madras on the 22nd August, 1786, and a few days later sailed for Calcutta (Nos. 456, 460), where he relieved Macpherson on the 12th September (No. 461).

Henry Vansittart, jun., and Richard Kennaway, as administrators of the Indian estate of Robert Palk, jun., bring to notice the case of Simeon Droz, a Bengal civil servant, who was indebted to the estate (No. 419). Droz gave Palk a bond for Rs. 9,000 for the purchase from him of "a Filature or building for winding silk, in the neighbourhood of Cossimbuzar," but he failed to receive possession because "Mr. Palk, holding a contract for raw silk under another name with the Board of Trade, continued to employ the Filature in the provision of his silk." Before he sailed Palk sold the property to another person, but the administrators, having no power to cancel Droz's bond, which was found among the deceased's papers, refer the matter to Sir Robert. Droz went home at this time, and on arrival wrote to his friend General Caillaud (No. 453), asking him to represent his case. Vansittart announces in August (No. 455) that the estate is about to be wound up, and that he himself intends to return to England. Six weeks later he was dead, a victim to climate (No. 464).

During 1786 the financial situation improved steadily. Bengal assisted the other Presidencies with money (No. 409), and undertook to pay the King's troops in Madras (No. 432). The arrears due to the Company's forces, however, continued unpaid, and credit remained low, Government securities being discounted at 35 to 40 per cent. Permission was then granted by the Directors for the liquidation of bonds to the extent of Rs. 6 crores, say, six millions sterling, by bills on England at rates of exchange to be settled by the Supreme Government (No. 425). The rate fixed for Madras was only 7s. per pagoda (No. 461), which Pelling & de Fries consider will be unacceptable. The measure helped, however, to restore credit (No. 441). A small bank established by Hastings in Calcutta in 1773 had been abolished by Clavering's party, but in 1786 proposals were made for a "General Bank of India" with a capital of Rs. 20 lakhs

in 100 shares, of which 75 were to be allotted to Bengal, 15 to Madras and 10 to Bombay (No. 434). Pelling & de Fries write frequently from Madras to report that Walajah is paying the *kists* or instalments of his annual subsidy of 16 lakhs of pagodas with surprising regularity, though the Government is less prompt in discharging the share due to the private creditors (No. 441, etc.). A settlement with the creditors was made in December, 1786, half in cash and half in bills on Masulipatam (No. 469).

Thomas Pelling writes to Sir Robert Palk in 1786 (No. 433) on behalf of two of his grandsons, who, on the death of their father, Captain Thomas Gibson, were admitted by Hastings "Minor Cadets on the Bengal Establishment." When very young they were sent to England, but were required to present themselves in India at the age of 14 or be struck off the list of cadets. The boys are now 16 and 15, and Pelling represents that it would be ruinous to their education to bring them out before 1788, when he wishes them to enter the Bengal Army. George Baker mentions (No. 430) the settlement of a dispute about the site of a new British cantonment at Sheveram, between Conjeveram and Chingleput, which encroached on the Nawab's territory. Davidson, Sir John Dalling, the Nawab and his son Amir-ul-Umarā met at the spot, an exchange of land was effected, and the cantonment received the name of Walajabad. The barracks were abandoned in 1860 as unhealthy. Chokappa records (No. 460) the formation by Sir Archibald Campbell of Boards of Revenue and Trade, each consisting of a president and three members. The Committee of Circuit continues to function.

Tom Palk had sent his eldest son Tom home in February, 1784, but it was not until August, 1785 (No. 401), that he was able to acknowledge the receipt of news of the little boy's arrival at Haldon House, and of Sir Robert's intention of establishing him at the school of Ottery St. Mary. Thither young Tom duly went, and among the papers in the collection is his first school bill (No. 405). His father, to whom another son was born in 1785 (No. 433), prospered at Trichinopoly, and remitted substantial sums to England (No. 442). In September, 1786, he writes (No. 457) that he has about 19,000*l.* at his credit, besides Company's paper for Pags. 60,000. He hopes to go home in January, 1788, but "fortunes are not to be made so rapidly as before the war. People in my situation have never made them by their employs, but by loans of money to the country at, as you know, an high interest; but it is no longer safe to do it on any terms; and the Nabob, since the restitution of the assignment, has not practised that good old custom." Considering "my having been 12 years without any employ, and finding myself much in debt on my coming here, you will not think I have been idle." Tom Palk proposed to send his children Catharine and Robert to England in January, 1787, under the care of his wife's sister Mrs. Lang. The family,



accompanied by Ensign William Preston, started for Madras in November (No. 465), but when within 80 miles of their destination were disappointed to learn that General Ross Lang had changed his mind and would not sail that season (No. 468). The children probably went home with their parents a year later. In 1788 Tom Palk acquired the estate of Butterford in the parish of North Huish, near Totnes.<sup>(1)</sup>

With the year 1786 the Indian correspondence ceases abruptly. There remain a few letters written to Sir Robert by friends in England, and a number relating to a continental tour made by his son Lawrence Palk. These will be briefly noticed. The Rev. J. Bradford writes from Ideford (No. 443) on behalf of his eldest son, for whom he desires a clerkship in a public office or a bank. He had intended the boy to embark in trade, but finds that "the premiums they expect in any reputable shop are not less than four or five hundred pounds," a sum which is beyond his means. The Rev. Samuel Badcock, nonconformist minister of South Molton, who was a frequent contributor to literary magazines, corresponded with Sir Robert Palk about a proposed history of the County of Devon, which he undertook to prepare. He received from Sir Robert and catalogued a collection of MSS. bearing on the subject (No. 420), and consulted documents obtained from various sources, especially from the Coffin Library at Portledge near Bideford (No. 449). He resolved in 1786 to resign his office and enter the Established Church (No. 462), and he was duly ordained. The county history, which Sir Robert appears to have financed (No. 470), was uncompleted at the time of Badcock's death in 1788.

Sir Robert Palk's children were four in number. The two elder, Anne and Lawrence, were born in India and brought home when very young by their parents. Catherine and Emelia were born in England in 1768 and 1774, and died at the ages of 14 and 12 respectively. Lawrence Palk appears, judging from allusions in the correspondence, to have been educated at Oxford. In 1785, when he was 19 years old, his father determined to send him abroad to "supply the want of study at home, and to teach him to be a good citizen" (No. 447). A Swiss gentleman named D'Ivernois was chosen to accompany and advise the young man, and to regulate his expenditure. From an account rendered in March, 1786 (No. 429), it appears that the tour began in July, 1785, and that a Mr. Beeke (probably the Rev. Henry Beeke, Fellow of Oriel) travelled with Lawrence and D'Ivernois to Switzerland, visiting Neuchâtel, St. Gall, Constance and Berne. Beeke then returned to England, while the other two established themselves for the winter at Neuchâtel, whence both corresponded frequently with Sir Robert Palk, D'Ivernois writing always in French. The earliest letter preserved is of December, 1785 (No. 406), in which

(1) *History of Devonshire*, Lysons, 1822.

Lawrence expresses pleasure at his eldest sister's engagement to Sir Bourchier Wrey, reports his own progress in the French language, and alludes to indisposition following dental treatment. Six weeks later D'Ivernois gives details (No. 415) of the singular operation performed on Lawrence by an itinerant dentist, by which, after two overcrowded teeth had been extracted, one of them was cut to shape and replaced. D'Ivernois hints (No. 408) that his charge finds life at Neuchâtel too comfortable, and that his association with a Mr. Spencer, who is staying in the same house as themselves, distracts his attention from his studies. Sir Robert is therefore urged to direct an early move to Germany, and to provide recommendations for the Courts of Dresden, Berlin and Vienna. Spencer returned to England in February, 1786, his friend accompanying him as far as Besançon (No. 417). Lawrence showed unwillingness to leave Neuchâtel, where he received much attention from the residents and made many friends. Early in March he writes to his father (No. 427), lamenting his sister Emelia's illness. Regarding himself he says, evidently in reply to an admonition, "I willingly promise that I never will propose to any lady to whom either you or my mother object; and your goodness to me upon every occasion makes me flatter myself that you would not wish to oblige me to make choice of one that I do not approve. Your fortune is certainly of your own acquiring, and I would not wish to have the least share of it if you have the least reason to imagine I do not deserve it."

After a farewell ball given by Lawrence to Neuchâtel society in acknowledgment of hospitality received, D'Ivernois, whose sisters came over from Geneva to attend it, announces (No. 429) that a move to Vienna will be possible early in April. He considers that by the time Lawrence returns to England he will be able to speak French "if not like Mr. Spencer without accent, at any rate sufficiently well for an ambassador, the standard generally aimed at by young Englishmen." In April Lawrence Palk writes from Constance (No. 435), whence they are about to start for Munich *en route* to Vienna. He alludes to his sister's marriage to Sir Bourchier Wrey, which took place on the 14th March, and expresses regret at leaving Neuchâtel, where he had met Colonel Abraham Bonjour, an old acquaintance of Sir Robert's, and had received kindness from the sister of the late Colonel Des Plans. Des Plans died at Madras in 1772, leaving his property to his widow and two daughters, with remainder to his sister. The daughters died, and the widow married again. On her death in 1776, her second husband took possession, and his claim was confirmed by the Mayor's Court. The sister hopes that Sir Robert may be able to represent her case to the authorities in India, and Lawrence encloses a copy of Des Plans' will with an explanatory memorandum. He goes on to mention the existence of a

colony of Genevans established at Constance, engaged in the industries of watchmaking and enamelling. "The tyranny of the aristocrats ever since the late revolution, and the means they employ to oppress the natives have rendered Geneva disgusting to its inhabitants." The Emperor encourages the colonists, granting them not only religious freedom but actual autonomy.

Not until the travellers reach Vienna does D'Ivernois divulge the real cause of Lawrence Palk's reluctance to quit Neuchâtel after his protracted stay of six months (No. 436). The youth had become enamoured of a young lady who was both esteemed and attractive. She returned his affection, and her parents offered encouragement. The final interviews were of a heart-rending character, but Lawrence resisted the temptation to make any promise. D'Ivernois says that his own previous silence on the subject was due to fear of alarming Sir Robert unnecessarily; but the father probably had some inkling of what was in progress, as he appears to have delivered to his son in February a homily on marriage.

By the beginning of June Lawrence finds Vienna dull (Nos. 437, 438), the Emperor having gone to Luxembourg, and the nobles retired to their country properties. He frequently visits Prince Kaunitz, "the Oracle of Vienna," whom he admires and appreciates as a great politician, and he has been received by the Countess of Thun and by the Russian Ambassador. The travellers then make an excursion into Hungary, visiting the seat of Prince Esterhazy and appreciating the Belvidere in his gardens "as being entirely different from the German taste, who admires nothing but what is entirely covered with gilding and awkward ornaments." They went on to Presburg, "an ugly, ill-built town," whose castle was occupied by 600 young men preparing for the church. Here it was that the late Empress, Maria Theresa, presented her infant son, the present Emperor Joseph II., to the Hungarians, who swore to defend him. "Little did they think that the child would one day prove their greatest oppressor." After a few days' stay with the Countess de Friez at Feslau, near Vienna (No. 439), the travellers started for Berlin towards the end of June, halting at Leipzig to visit the seat of Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau.

At Berlin, where they had an introduction to the British Ambassador, Lord Dalrymple, afterwards Earl of Stair, they find that the King of Prussia, Frederick the Great, is in poor health and unable to see strangers (No. 444). He remains at Potsdam with a chosen party of his generals (No. 446). Lawrence and his mentor were presented to the Queen and princes, and dined with the Crown Prince at Potsdam (No. 447). Towards the end of August the King was seriously ill and unable to move without assistance. His demise may give rise to trouble, for "the Emperour has his eyes continually fixed on



Silesia, keeps his troupes in readiness, and waits only for that event to attempt the conquest of that province which has been so unjustly ravished from him." The Prussian forces are strong, but unless the new king increases their pay "it is feared that nearly half his army will desert upon the first breaking out of a war."

Quitting Berlin, the travellers proceeded at the end of July to Brunswick and Hanover. At the former place they were received by the Duchess, sister of George III (No. 448), and at the latter dined with the Duke of York (No. 451). At Göttingen they were presented to the princes, with whom they supped. There they encountered some of Lawrence's Oxford friends, and met Sir Isaac Heard, Garter King of Arms, who brought news of Sir Robert Palk. On arriving at Wesel on the 20th August (No. 454) they heard of the death of Frederick the Great on the 17th and the accession of the Crown Prince as Frederick William II. "Notwithstanding the trouble and confusion this event cannot fail of producing in every part of the Prussian territories, it seems here to be the general opinion that the Emperour, actually in Transylvania and far removed from the frontiers of Silesia, will not strike a blow in attempting to regain this part of the possessions anciently belonging to his family." At Wesel Lawrence received alarming accounts of the health of his mother and youngest sister. At his father's request, however, he determined to continue his tour through Holland and then return to England, relinquishing the original intention of making a prolonged stay in Paris.

His final letter is written from the Hague on the 8th September, 1786 (No. 458). The British Minister, Sir James Harris, afterwards Earl of Malmesbury, to whom he has a letter of recommendation, is much occupied with "the Prince of Orange's affairs, which seem to grow every day worse and worse, insomuch that a civil war appears now to be almost inevitable." The States have this day resolved to deprive their ruler of the Stadtholdership. The Prince is supported only by Guelderland, being opposed by six provinces with forces five times larger than his own. His brother-in-law of Prussia has sent the Count de Goertz to endeavour to effect a reconciliation. Lawrence refers to news of a declaration of war by Russia on Turkey, and to a rumour that Gibraltar has been sold to the Empress for two millions sterling. This report he hopes is true, "as it has been sufficiently proved that this fortress is of no real use to us, but on the contrary puts us to a much greater expence than we can at present afford." He has been greatly struck by the prosperous condition of Holland as contrasted with the miserable deserts of Westphalia, and by the wonderful neatness and cleanliness of the Dutch homes. He and D'Ivernois propose to move to Brussels in a few days by way of Rotterdam and Breda. He is glad to hear of his mother's improved health, but notes that no allusion is made to his sister in his father's

last letter. In point of fact Emelia passed away on the 14th August, and the intelligence was doubtless withheld purposely from her brother.

The picture of Lawrence Palk presented by these letters from himself and D'Ivernois is one of a shy and sensitive youth of transparently open character, who is amiable and considerate, a dutiful son, an affectionate brother and a general favourite. His mother died in 1788, and his father ten years later, when Lawrence Palk succeeded to the baronetcy and the Haldon estates.

The editor cannot conclude this report on the Palk letters without acknowledging the liberality of their owner, Mrs. Bannatyne, in placing the documents at his disposal and affording the most ample facilities for their examination and study. He has received invaluable help in his work from Sir Murray Hammick, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., and Mr. William Foster, C.I.E. The former has kindly examined that part of the original collection which is now preserved in the Manuscripts Department of the British Museum, and has consulted many printed books; while the latter has not only communicated a store of information from the records of the India Office and from his own wide knowledge of the subjects discussed, but has read and criticized the proof sheets of this work. The editor is indebted also to Mr. John S. Amery for particulars of the Palk family, to Mr. Demetrius C. Boulger for notes on the Marathas, to Mr. Stephen Wheeler for information concerning sundry Anglo-Indian notables, to Mr. Hugh R. Vibart for research in the British Museum, and to the Rev. Frank Penny's *History of the Church in Madras* for details of the ecclesiastical portion of Sir Robert Palk's career.

HENRY DAVISON LOVE,

COLONEL, R.E., *retired*.





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CALENDAR  
OF THE  
PALK MANUSCRIPTS

IN THE POSSESSION OF MRS. BANNATYNE,  
OF HALDON, DEVON.

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[No. 1.]

[LIEUT. COLONEL] S[TRINGER] LAWRENCE to CHARLES WATSON, ESQR., Rear Admiral of the Red, and Commander in Chief of all His Majesty's Ships employed in the East Indies.

1755, October 8th. Fort St. George.—“Sir, I beg leave to present you with an account of my campaigns in India. The better to make the cause of the war understood I shall begin with a short account of the first rise of the troubles here; the state of affairs when I left India at the end of the year '50; what happened during my absence and after my return in March '52, unto the end of the year '54, when a cessation of arms took place between the two nations.

“My narrative, Sir, will, I am afraid, savour more of the soldier than the historian, but I submit my stile and actions with all my heart to your inspection. Your good nature, I know, will make large allowances, and your judgment in correcting, at the same time it improves, will be a mark of your esteem and regard, which I shall at all times think myself highly honoured with.

“The Mogul Empire is divided into three Departments. I shall only treat of the one in which we have been concerned: it is to the southward and called the Deckan. The government of this third is appointed by the Mogul himself; and by a power delegated from his Prince, he<sup>(1)</sup> names the Nabobs to govern the different Subahs<sup>(2)</sup> in his Principality. The Deckan has seven Subahships, which are named as in the margin.<sup>(3)</sup> The capital of the Province is Aurengbade: the three last Subahships are comprehended under the name of the Carnatick, in which we have endeavoured to support the Nabob Mahomed Allee Cawn.

(1) The ruler of the Deccan under the Mogul.

(2) Provinces.

(3) Marginal note by Lawrence:—“Names of the Subahships in the Deckan; Aurengelade, Kandeas, Barraud, Berampoor, Goleondah, Ahamed Nagar, Vizapoor: the three last comprehended under the name of the Carnatick.”

"The Carnatick is part on this side of the river Kitshna<sup>(1)</sup> to Cape Comorin, and Golconda is on the other side of the river to Aurengabad: the whole goes under the name of the Deccan.

[Then follows Lawrence's *Narrative* substantially as printed by R. O. Cambridge in his *Account of the War in India, 1750 to 1760*. London, 1761. The principal variations between the written and printed versions are noted below. Lawrence's letter terminates thus:—]

"The day after it [the suspension of arms, proclaimed 11th October, 1754] was declared I left the army and came down to the Settlements, not the same man in constitution as when I left them, after a campaign of two years and seven months, and never absent from the field but six weeks in the whole time.

"A truce for a year and a half, or till we could receive answers from Europe, succeeded the cessation. Since that time our troops have some times been employed in settling the country and assisting the Nabob to collect his revenues.

"I have now gone through my narrative, in which my constant endeavour has been to give a true description of our military transactions for the amusement and perusal only of a few particular friends, who, I hope, will make allowances for the want of a proper style and correctness. If the subject is clear and easily understood, the end proposed is fully answered.

"I am, with the greatest esteem, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

"S. LAWRENCE."

[*Autograph, 210pp., 4to., and an Appendix of 11pp. descriptive of the Island of Srirangam and its temples; the whole bound in paper covers in book form.*]

[Besides making verbal alterations, Cambridge omits several paragraphs and notes which occur in Lawrence's MS. narrative. The principal omissions are quoted below, and the positions of the *lacunae* in the printed version are indicated. Cambridge's Appendix to the narrative is not found in the MS. version.]

MS. p. 4. *Marginal note* (Camb. p.2). "The Marattoes are Gentous, esteemed the best soldiers, except the Rashboot east, in India. The Princes of the Indostan hire them, as European Powers do the Swiss. But now and then indeed they march without being desired, raise contributions and return to their own country. They are governed by a King, whom they stile the Nana or Shaw Rajah:<sup>(2)</sup> the capital of his kingdom is called Sattarah, about 800 miles north west from Madrass."

(1) Footnote by Lawrence:—"The rise and progress of this River may be seen in a map lately published, as well as the Country I am treating of."

(2) Sahu Raja, titular ruler of the Marathas, was a grandson of Sivaji.



*MS. p. 5. Marginal note (Camb. p. 2).* “The Carnatick about three centuries ago was all under the Gentou government. The King resided at Vizepoor;<sup>(1)</sup> the River Ganges<sup>(2)</sup> divided their dominions from the Mogul’s. Royallow was the first Gentou king that quarrelled with the Moors, who crossed the river, and after several turns of fortune they got some footing in the Carnatick; which still increased under different Moguls until the time of Aurengzeb, who made all the Carnatick tributary to the Mogul. It was his great grand father Huckenbar<sup>(3)</sup> that began the conquest. Nabobs were then first sent to govern the country, but notwithstanding, the Gentou form of government still remained in several places, and does now. The Marattoes, being all Gentous, are a great ballance against the ineroaching power of the Moors. Such was the state of Tritchinopoly when Chunda took and changed its form of government.”

*MS. p. 64 (Camb. p. 28).* “Thus Chunda made his exit and paid the just price of his rebellion. In private life he is said to have been a man of great benevolence, humanity and generosity. And with regard to his publick character; in this mighty ill-ruled empire custom makes a rebell, or any man that sets up for himself only, considered as he succeeds; according to his success he is a *great* man, the idea of *good* not being necessarily annexed. Their ambition is generally better pleased with the former. If he fails, he is only reckoned unlucky. The rule of right is almost here defaced; an attempt may be deemed unlawfull, but possession justifies the act, and makes it good and valid. Chunda thought himself born to rule, and as nature had given him parts, he was willing to make use of them.”

*MS. p. 131 (Camb. p. 48).* “On advice received from Mr. Palk we continued our march near the Capital<sup>(4)</sup> at the King’s request and promise of a speedy junction; so well had Mr. Palk managed for our interest. Indeed I could expect nothing less from his unwearied attention to remove all difficulties, which before prevented the assistance we so much wanted; and this is not the only good turn for which we are indebted to this gentleman.”

*MS. p. 154 (Camb. p. 55).* “The King<sup>(5)</sup> was hesitating, and very little was wanting to turn the scale against us. As my advice was not always properly attended to, it was sometimes given in vain. I wrote to Mr. Palk, who was willing to come on the least request of the Governour. Again I renewed my request, begging at last, if they would not spare him, to send me some body else of character and judgment, or the alliance

(1) An error for Vijayanagar, the capital of the ancient Hindu kingdom of the same name.

(2) The Godavari (Vridhdha-Ganga).

(3) Akbar.

(4) Tanjore.

(5) The King of Tanjore.

of the King of Tanjore was inevitably lost. After much delay they sent a gentleman,<sup>(1)</sup> one of the St. David's Council, a good man, but as unfit a person for the business as they could pick out; and had it not been for two lucky accidents in our favour, nothing would have prevented the King of Tanjore from signing a neutrality. One of them was the French mis-carrying in their attempt on Trichenopoly; the other the Marattos being obliged to retire from the Tanjore country after having suffered considerably in their expedition, and leaving behind them 1,000 horse and many officers prisoners."

*MS. p.159 (Camb. p. 56).* [The name of the gallant leader of the escalading party, omitted by Cambridge, was "Valgra."]

*MS. p. 178 (Camb. p. 62).* [According to the MS., the disaster to the British detachment was due to the commanding officer "knowing but little of his business." Cambridge attributes it to "misconduct."]

*MS. p. 180 (Camb. p. 63).* "I acquainted the Presidency with the misfortune: they could now find men quick enough to send a reinforcement when they were frightened. They sent therefore 180 men immediately to Deve Cotah, and Mr. Palk at last to Tanjore to try once more his influence at that Court. His coming, indeed, would have been sooner, but on application to Mr. Duplex for a passport, he refused to grant any unless he gave his word that his journey should not be beyond St. David; so that it took him 15 days to go by sea."

*MS. p. 190 (Camb. p. 66).* "Ill as I was, I had myself carried out to the top of one of the gateways of the Fort;<sup>(2)</sup> but too weak long to bear the anxiety and uneasiness I was in when I saw our ticklish situation. I knew indeed our men were brave, but such odds were too much."

*MS. Appendix p. 5 (Camb. p. 19).* "We have had many ridiculous stories about the origin of these Pagodas,<sup>(3)</sup> but the account most to be depended on is that they were built by an order of the great Gentou King called Kishtna Royallou, to whom all the rest of the Princes of the Carnatick were tributary: you will see mention made of him in the beginning of these sheets. The Moors in his reign first began the conquest of the Carnatick. By his orders was Seringam built at the expence of four tributary Princes (who each were to erect the side opposite to the countries they governed), the east by the King of Tanjour, the north by the King of Gingee, the west by the King of Maisure, and the south by the King of Trichenopoly."

(1) Thomas Cooke, jun., a civil servant of 1710, who was appointed in 1717 a Councillor at the Presidency of Fort St. David.

(2) The Fort of Trichenopoly.

(3) The Srirangam temples.

[No. 2]

JOHN PYE<sup>(1)</sup> TO —————.

[Endorsed in Palk's hand.] "Bombay. Mr. Pye. 5th Feb., 1758. Reed. 17th April."

1758, February 5th. Bombay.—"My dear Friend, I have the pleasure to acquaint you of our arrival here the 23rd of last month, all well, and that in a day or two we embark on board the *Swallow* for Gombaroon,<sup>(2)</sup> from whence we go in the *Success* to Bassorah; but as I have very little time to spare now, will proceed to *commune* with you on business.

"Your Respondentia Bond<sup>(3)</sup> on Capt. James I leave with Capt. Hough to be received the 13th instant, being then due. Your chest containing by your instructions ten thousand sonnauts,<sup>(4)</sup> but by ocular demonstration only nine thousand nine hundred and ninety five, I have sold by Capt. Hough's advice for nine thousand five hundred and ninety five Bombay rupees. I have settled your account with Hough & Spencer to the 31st January last, and inclose you a copy of it, by which you will see the ballance due to you is thirteen thousand seven hundred sixty three rupees and fifty reas,<sup>(5)</sup> and that your Gheria<sup>(6)</sup> prize money and Doidge's<sup>(7)</sup> Respondentia on the *Liveley* is included in it. . . . The Governor and Council will give Hough bills for all the money we want, but not time enough for me to take one with me; but I shall leave instructions with him to send two of your bills home by two of the *European* ships which depart in about a month. Your bills will be made payable to Charles Brett.<sup>(8)</sup> As soon as I get home I will see Brett, and commune with him on your affairs. No account can be given of the 400 rupees paid to Smith, late *supra* cargoe of the *Grampus*.

"The china of Japan and the third of a leager of arrack<sup>(9)</sup> given you in former days by Henry Doidge, Esq., are safely *deposed* in a godown<sup>(10)</sup> in the Tank House under the charge of George England. Observe your jars are not separated from the rest; either you or King of the *Cumberland*, Doidge says, must carry the whole home for him, and then yours are to be

(1) John Pye was one of four Navy Agents in July, 1757. (Hill's *Cat. Orme MSS.* X.I (25) ).

(2) *Gombaroon*, Gombroon or Bandar Abbās in the Persian Gulf, where the East India Company had a factory.

(3) *Respondentia Bond*, a bond on the security of a ship's cargo.

(4) *Sonnauts*, from Ar. *sanwāl*, pl. of *san*, year; Rupees which had deteriorated in value after three years' currency.

(5) *Reas*, small money of account used in Bombay; the Rupee contained 400 reas. In Bombay accounts were kept in rupees, quarters and reas.

(6) *Gheriah* or Vijayadrug, the stronghold of the pirate Angria on the coast south of Bombay, was attacked and destroyed by Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive in February, 1756.

(7) Henry Doidge, one of the four Navy Agents.

(8) Charles Brett, a friend of Palk in England.

(9) *Arrack*, a fermented liquor obtained from the palm.

(10) *Godown*, a store, from Tel. *gidangi* through Malay *gadong*, a storeroom.



rendered unto you. The cask of arrack has the noble name of Martin wrote upon the head with chalk.

“I am sorry to tell you, in regard to your hopes of Doidge’s drawing on you for forty thousand rupees, that Captain Hough having lain out for our and Mr. Steevens’<sup>(1)</sup> Squadron more money than was left here, there is no such thing as any prize money to be got ; so nothing can be done in that affair.

“For the six dozen of claret we had of you at Bengal, *vide* the following scheme—

The 9995 Sonnauts brought here produced	9,595		
Your half of James’s bond, principal and			
premium .. .. .	10,800		
Hough and Spencer’s ballance .. ..	13,763	0	50
6 dozen of claret at 48 per dozen .. ..	288		
Bombay Rupees	34,446	0	50

“Thirty four thousand four hundred and forty six rupees at two shillings and five pence the rupee I humbly apprehend amounts to pounds sterling 4,162 4 6, which you are morally certain of getting home this year ; so as it can’t be better, why you must e’en be content ’tis well as it is—

Si fortuna vestra te tormento

Let sperato te contento.

“Ives<sup>(2)</sup> and Doidge send their best wishes. Mr. Shannon deserted us at Cochín, and one Mackintosh is come in his room. Alms<sup>(3)</sup> goes with us, as does young Pigot.<sup>(4)</sup> I wrote to you from Anjango.

“By advices overland the present Lords of the Admiralty are Anson, Boscawen, West, Hay, Eliott, Hunter and Forbes. Lord Holdernessee and Mr. Pitt Secretarys of State. Lord Temple has the Privy Seal, and Councillor Henley is knighted and made Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. Of 34 transports French bound to America we have taken 32, and of 23 Martinico and Domingo ships 17 have fallen into the hands of the English. The Duke<sup>(5)</sup> has been beat in Germany and the city of Hanover is taken. The Prince of Hesse has lost all his dominions. Mr. Osborne<sup>(6)</sup> has 16 sail of the line and Mr. Saunders<sup>(7)</sup> 14 in the Meditteranean. Fourteen capital ships and 20,000 troops were on the point of sailing from England about July last

(1) Commodore Charles Steevens, R.N.

(2) Surgeon Edward Ives, who travelled from Basra to Aleppo in 1758-59.

(3) Lieutenant Alms, R.N., lately commander of the *Hardwicke*, Indiaman, was an old friend of Dr. Ives. As Captain he commanded the squadron of three ships which brought General Medows’s force to India in 1782.

(4) Dr. Pigot, late surgeon of a bomb-vessel.

(5) The Duke of Cumberland, who was defeated at Hastenbeck and forced to sign the convention of Kloster-Zeven.

(6) Admiral Henry Osborne was Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean early in 1757.

(7) Admiral Sir Charles Saunders relieved Osborne in May 1757.

under Mr. Hawke and General Mordaunt<sup>(1)</sup> on a secret expedition.

"The *Chesterfield*, *Portfield* and *Edgcote*, Indiamen, arrived at Limerick in June last. The *Syren*, sloop, Dick King, arrived in England the beginning of June, by whom the Company knew of the capture and recapture of Calcutta. The *Experiment*, man of war, engaged and took a French privateer of 36 guns and 400 men. Mr. Fox is Paymaster of the Forces. The Duke of Newcastle at the head of the Treasury, and I think Mr. Legge is Chancellor of the Exchequer.

"Adieu, and believe me with all sincerity your faithfull friend, &c.

"JOHN PYE."

"Doidge says 'tis doubtfull whether he shall write to you or no. His head aches; he has a great deal to do. To be sure we have led fine lives since we have been here. Pemble is a fine fellow at 3 in the morning, and laughs heartily at the story of Cousin Swinney.

"Pray give my best wishes to Capt. Smith."

[*Holograph*, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., *flscp.*]

[No. 3.]

WILL[IAM] FERGUSSON<sup>(2)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.,  
at Mrs. Ray's in Tavistock Row, Covent Garden.

1760, November 10th. Ayr.—"I am favoured to-day with your letter of the 4th, and shall write to the two gentlemen in the north concerning the subject of your letter. They are not at all punctual in their answers; for though I wrote them repeatedly of the necessity of returning an answer to the Gruffees<sup>(3)</sup> at Fort St. George, and to Mr. Smith<sup>(4)</sup> at Canton, and transmitted them the letters and accounts you sent me, desiring after perusal they would be pleased to send me back the same, or copys of them; and that they would either write what answer they thought proper or leave it to me to do it, yet I have not received any answer from them. . . .

"Since it appears inconvenient that Miss Munro<sup>(5)</sup> should go in the same ship with you, I shall agree to her going with Capt. Glover or with any other you shall approve, since there are other ladies going out with her in the same ship.

(1) Admiral Edward Hawke and General Sir John Mordaunt co-operated in the expedition to Rochefort in 1757. The copy of Lawrence's *Narrative* which is now in the British Museum was addressed to Mordaunt.

(2) William Fergusson, "Druggist and Chymist in London" and "the Reverend Mr. Robert Palk of Fort St. George" were two of five Executors of the will of Dr. Andrew Munro, who died at Madras on the 26th October, 1757. A copy of the will, formerly among the Palk papers, is not now found. Its substance is given in *Indian Records Series, Vestiges of Old Madras*, vol. II., pp. 458, 459.

(3) *Gruffees*, consignees of *gruff* goods, i.e., any bulky articles of merchandize: from Dutch *grof*, coarse.

(4) George Smith, then at Canton and afterwards a free merchant at Madras, was a nephew of Mrs. Munro.

(5) Katherine Munro, elder daughter of Dr. Munro.

"As to what stocks it may be best to lay out the money in belonging to our Gruff,<sup>(1)</sup> I cannot determine. Only I am afraid that trusting to the new supplies will be attended with delay and other inconveniences, especially as none of us are likely to be in London; and therefore I should prefer either South Sea or Bank Annuities, which always keep pace with the other Stocks, and are not liable to the same uncertainties as the new supplies. When I receive Mr. Munro<sup>(2)</sup> and Mr. Robertson's<sup>(3)</sup> answers, you shall be acquainted with them.

"WILL FERGUSSON."

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to. Wax seal.*]

[No. 4.]

"ORDER FOR RESTITUTION IN THE EAST INDIES."

Duplicate.

1763, March 16th. Court at St. James.—"To our Trusty and Welbeloved MAJOR GENERAL STRINGER LAWRENCE, BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM DRAPER,<sup>(4)</sup> COLONEL EYRE COOTE,<sup>(5)</sup> or to the Officer Commanding any Part of Our Land Forces in the East Indies, or to the Commanding Officer in any Islands or Places which shall have been taken possession of by Our Army.

"George R.

"Trusty and Welbeloved, We Greet you well. Whereas a Definitive Treaty of Peace has been signed at Paris, on the Tenth Day of February last, by Our Minister Plenipotentiary and Those of Our Good Brothers The Most Christian King<sup>(6)</sup> and The Catholick King,<sup>(7)</sup> to which The Minister Plenipotentiary of Our Good Brother The Most Faithful King<sup>(8)</sup> acceded on the same Day; And Whereas It is stipulated by the Eleventh Article of the said Treaty that Great Britain shall restore to France, in the Condition they are now in, the different Factories which that Crown possessed, as well on the Coast of Coromandel and Orixá as on that of Malabar, as also in Bengal, at the Beginning of the year 1749; And that His Most Christian

(1) Consignment of gruff goods.

(2) John Munro, of Culcarn, late of Bombay, one of the Executors.

(3) The Rev. Andrew Robertson, of Kiltarn, Ross-shire, one of the Executors.

(4) Sir William Draper, K.B., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, entered the British Army in 1711, raised the 79th Regiment and commanded it at the siege of Fort St. George in 1758-59. With Admiral Cornish he led the Manila Expedition of 1762. He served later as Lieut.-governor of Minorca.

(5) Sir Eyre Coote, K.B., served in the Highland rising of 1745, came to India in 1754, accompanied Clive to Bengal, and as Major was present at Plassey. In 1759, during Lawrence's absence, Colonel Coote commanded the Madras army, defeating Lally at Wandewash in January, 1760, and reducing Pondicherry a year later. In July, 1770, he arrived at Madras from home as Commander-in-Chief in India, but resigned almost immediately in consequence of a dispute with the local Government. In 1778 he again came to India as Commander-in-Chief with the rank of Lieut.-General, and in 1780 left Calcutta for Madras to engage Haidar Ali, whom he defeated at Porto Novo in 1781. Coote died at Fort St. George in 1783.

(6) Louis XV. of France.

(7) Charles III. of Spain.

(8) Joseph I. of Portugal.



Majesty shall restore, on His Side, all that He may have conquered from Great Britain, in the East Indies, during the present War; And will expressly cause Nattal and Tapanouly in the Island of Sumatra to be restored; And Whereas it is stipulated in the Twenty Third Article of the same Treaty that all the Countries and Territories which may have been Conquered, in whatever Part of the World, by the Arms of Us and of the Most Faithful King, as well as by those of the Most Christian and Catholick Kings, which are not included in the present Treaty either under the Title of Cessions or under the Title of Restitutions, shall be restored without Difficulty and without requiring any Compensation; And It being further stipulated in the Twenty Fourth Article of the said Definitive Treaty that the Factories in the East Indies shall be restored Six Months after the Exchange of the Ratifications of the present Treaty, or sooner if it can be done, Which Ratifications were exchanged on the 10th of this Instant March; Our Will and Pleasure is that You do, pursuant to the Stipulations above recited, deliver or cause to be delivered to such Commissary or Commissaries as shall be named and authorized on the Part of our Said Good Brother The Most Christian King to receive the same, any of the Factories under Your Command which are to be restored to France in the Condition they are now in, agreeably to the Stipulations of the Eleventh and Twenty Fourth Articles of the Definitive Treaty abovementioned, and also that You do deliver or cause to be delivered to the Commissary or Commissaries duely authorized to receive the same any Countries or Territories which may be to be restored to France or Spain in Consequence of the Twenty Third Article of the said Treaty; And it is Our further Will and Pleasure that you should take the necessary Measures with the French Commissaries that Nattal and Tapanouly in the Island of Sumatra, and all that France may have conquered from Great Britain in the East Indies during the present War, be restored agreeably to the Stipulations of the said Eleventh Article of the Definitive Treaty, as well as with the French and Spanish Commissaries for the Restitution of any other Conquests which may have been made upon Our Establishments in the East Indies by the Arms of the Most Christian and Catholick Kings, and which are to be restored in Consequence of the Twenty Third Article of the said Definitive Treaty; And that the same be restored at the same Time that Restitution is made of any Conquests which have been made by any of Our Forces under Your Command upon the French or Spanish Establishments. And for so doing this shall be Your Warrant. Given at Our Court at St. James's the Sixteenth Day of March, 1763, in the Third Year of our Reign.

“By His Majesty's Command, “EGREMONT.”<sup>(1)</sup>  
*[Autograph, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., flscp. Paper seal of George II.]*

(1) Lord Egremont, a Secretary in Bute's ministry of 1762.

[No. 5.]

Brother SALVATOR A SANCTIS D'FON[SE]CA to Governor PALK,  
Madras.

1765, Sept. 27th. San Thomé.<sup>(1)</sup>—Most illustrious and invincible Governor, Lord Palk,

With the greatest respect I throw myself at your Lordship's feet and approach, in the only possible way by means of this letter, to kiss your hand and enquire after your health. If that be good, I have no doubt that your Lordship will be crowned with yet higher honours due to the gifts and virtues which you possess ; for, as I have always heard, all men acknowledge your piety, power and greatness.

When I arrived on this coast, I went to your Lordship's residence on six occasions to deliver a letter of recommendation from Dom Loppo ; but being unable to obtain speech with you, I gave the letter to M. de Landreset, the senior officer of the Portuguese forces at Goa, that he might deliver it by other hands.

For your Lordship's satisfaction I will now be brief. I was sent out as the head of the Missions of the Spiritual Province of Portugal in the kingdoms of Jamseylon,<sup>(2)</sup> Achem<sup>(3)</sup> and Queda.<sup>(4)</sup> I accordingly remained on your coast to supervise necessaries coming from Portugal and Goa, so that the missionaries in the said kingdoms might carry on their appointed work.

Being myself quite worn out by persistent sickness, and being at present without means of subsistence, I suffer much. Like a lonely sojourner in Jerusalem I find myself in this place, where the power and honour of my kinsmen in Portugal are of no avail by reason of distance and my vow of poverty—a vow I find difficulty in observing in this country. Hearken therefore, my lord, to the counsel of Christ and the Apostle St. Paul, who says, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

In fine, by the love of Christ, and for the honour and salvation of your soul, I humbly beseech your Lordship to bestow alms on me according to the measure of your greatness and charity. And I will ever pray to the utmost of my power for your illustrious house, that God will guard you and deliver you from your enemies for many years to come, so that you may

<sup>1</sup> San Thomé was originally a Portuguese fortified settlement dating from about 1522, and the seat of a bishopric from 1606. Captured by the King of Goleonda in 1662, it was taken by the French ten years later. In 1671, after a protracted siege by Goleonda aided by the Dutch, it capitulated, and the fortifications were demolished. In 1687 the place was resettled by the Portuguese under the native Government, and in 1749 it became British territory by a grant from Nawab Muhammad Ali. San Thomé is situated on the coast three miles south of Port St. George. It possesses a cathedral and several churches. The cathedral contains the shrine of St. Thomas.

<sup>(2)</sup> Jamseylon or Junkseylon (Ujung Salang), an island off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula.

<sup>(3)</sup> Achem (Achin) in Sumatra.

<sup>(4)</sup> Queda (Kedah) in the Malay Peninsula, near Penang.

attain to immortal glory. Amen. God knows with what shame I expose my necessities to you. But forgive me, my Lord.

Your most humble servant and true well-wisher with all my heart ; now and always, and at all times and in every place I will remember you as your petitioner,

FRATER MAGISTER SALVATOR A SANCTIS D'FON<sup>CA</sup>.

San Thomé, at the hospice of St. Ritta.<sup>(1)</sup>

27th September, 1765.

[*Latin. Holograph, 3 pp., flsep.* The outer cover has a wax seal displaying a full length figure with aureole, and two acolytes below. The seal is inscribed SDARRARD. The cover is addressed thus :—]

“Illustrissimo Governatori de Madrasta Domino Palco, Deus cum custodiat ad multos annos in Madrasta.

“De Sancto Thoma.”

[No. 6.]

[NAWAB WALAJAH<sup>(2)</sup>] to the Honble. ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Governor.

[Endorsed in Palk's hand] “Nabob's Letters to the King and Company per *Pacific*, 3rd April, 1766.”

1766, April 3rd.—“Enclosed I send you a letter to the Company enclosing one for his Majesty, which I desire may be translated into English, and the copies sent to me that they may accompany the original and be clearly understood.

“I know you will highly approve of my doing this justice to General Lawrence, of whose glorious actions you have so often been an eye witness. Be pleased also to repeat my attachment to the Company and my entire dependance, and above all I desire that what I have said concerning the General may be strongly recommended to the Company.”

[ $\frac{1}{2}$  p., demy.]

[*Enclosure No. 1.*]

“To the Honble. THE CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE DIRECTION OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

“The many and great obligations I am under to General Lawrence induce me to request you will be pleased to present the inclosed letter to his Majesty, whom God preserve. I send a copy for your perusal. You are too well acquainted with General Lawrence's eminent services to need a particular explanation. I have therefore only further to request that he may receive from you annually on my account on the 1st of January—Pagodas,<sup>(3)</sup> which shall be repaid here on that day to your Governor and Council; and I desire you will

(1) The Church of St. Rita, standing at the south end of the High Street of San Thomé, was completed in 1740.

(2) The title *Walajah* was conferred by the Mogul in 1765 on Nawab Muhammad Ali of Arcot and the Carnatic.

(3) The annuity granted was Pags. 3,750, equivalent to about £1,500.



prevail on him to accept this from me as a gratefull acknowledgment to my great benefactor. By his Majesty's favor, your powerfull assistance and his signal successes, peace and plenty have been happily restored to my country. It is therefore equitable that he should reap a part of the fruits of his own labor. He is grown old with toil, but his glorious actions will never dye.

"By means of Lord Clive the Mogul Patcha has conferred on me great honors and made my Government independent of the Deckan, chiefly out of regard to my attachment to the Company. Thus under your favor and protection my Government is firmly established, and I am free from all manner of apprehension. May your prosperity and your fame ever increase.

"What can I say more ? "

[1 p., demy.]

[Enclosure No. 2.]

TO HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY GEORGE THE 3RD, &C., &C.

"I had the honor of addressing your Majesty by Admiral Cornish<sup>1</sup> and Colonel Monson,<sup>(2)</sup> and now the departure of General Lawrence, a servant of your Majesty as well as of the Company, induces me again to express my gratitude for the very great assistance I have on every occasion received from the unwearied vigilance and distinguished abilities of this excellent officer, whose sword has been often my only protector in the day of battle ; who for years together kept the field against a numerous enemy, and by his courage and conduct surmounted every difficulty ; who comforted me continually in my distress, and with a spirit and perseverance peculiar to himself was almost the only man in Indostan that never despaired of my cause. No doubt Your Majesty is well acquainted with his important services, disinterested character and extraordinary merit, which are not to be described within the compass of a letter, but which I and my family above all others are bound to acknowledge. May your Majesty never want such an Officer to command your Armies. I have desired the Company to represent my firm reliance on your Majesty's protection, and to present this letter, intended to express my deep sense of your royal favor in giving me such assistance as I have found in General Lawrence. May your Majesty's reign be long and happy.

"What can I say more ? "

[1 p., demy.]

<sup>(1)</sup> Admiral Samuel Cornish reinforced Steevens at the siege of Pondicherry in 1761, and in the following year, in conjunction with General Draper, conducted the expedition against Manila.

<sup>(2)</sup> Colonel the Hon. George Monson entered the army in 1750, came to India with Draper's Regiment and served at Wandewash and Pondicherry in 1760, Manila in 1762 and Madura in 1763. Eleven years later he came again to India as a member of the Supreme Council of Bengal, and united with Clavering and Francis against Hastings until his death in 1776.

[No. 7.]

*Memorandum of miles run by the Ship PACIFIC (unsigned).*

1766, October 18th. — “The number of miles run per month by the Ship *Pacific*,<sup>(1)</sup> having sailed from Madrass the 4th April, 1766, and arrived at the Cove of Cork the 18th day of October.

From the 4th of April to the 30th	..	Miles	1,183
In May	.. .. .	..	2,167
In June	.. .. .	..	2,836
In July	.. .. .	..	2,265
In August	.. .. .	..	2,658
In September	.. .. .	..	2,308
In October to the 18th	.. .. .	..	1,248
Total	.. .. .		14,665 ”

[ $\frac{3}{4}$ p., 4to.]

[No. 8.]

The Secretary to the COURT OF DIRECTORS TO MAJOR GENERAL  
STRINGER LAWRENCE.

1766, December 4th. East India House.—“It is with great pleasure I inform you that the Court of Directors yesterday came to an unanimous resolution that the annuity of five hundred pounds settled upon you for life, which ceased by your resignation thereof on returning to your station as Commander in Chief of the Company’s forces in the East Indies in 1761, is to be continued from the time of your leaving Fort Saint George for England, when your allowances for the abovementioned station ceased. Most sincerely wishing the Bath may have the desired effect, I remain, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, ROBT. JAMES, Secretary.”  
[Autograph, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  p., 4to.]

[No. 9.]

HENRY MOORE to the Honorable ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1766, December 18th, Ship *Osterley*, near Anjengo.—“As the *Osterl[e]y* is now standing into Anjengo road, I write you half a dozen lines from on board her to advise you of our arrival thus far. I hope they will salute you and Mrs. Palk in good health. Mr. Vansittart<sup>(2)</sup> was well in Burlington street the middle of March last. Should the *Anson* and *Devonshire* be arrived with you, you must have heard of him much later. When we were at Cadiz we heard of the arrival of the *Admiral Steevens* at Lisbon in ninety days from Bengal: she arrived there about the middle of April. We sailed from Cales [Cadiz] the 3rd of May, but the repairs we got there proving ineffectual, we were obliged to put in to Saint Salvador upon the coast of

(1) The *Pacific* carried the Nawab’s letters to the King and Company. *Vide* No. 6.

(2) Henry Vansittart, late Governor of Bengal. *Vide* p. 30, note 3.

Brazil, where we arrived under the 13th of June with a leak of five feet an hour. I need not to Mr. Palk paint our distresses. Heaving down, and the giving our crazy ship a new bottom detained us at that place untill the 20th of September. We have since continued quite tight, and are all very healthy, nor has any accident taken place during the remainder of the voyage except the carrying away topmasts and other trifles of that nature. Thanks to Providence, our voyage now draws near a conclusion. When I embarque on another outward bound one I hope it will use me worse than this has done. I beg my respects to Mrs. Palk. . . .

“HENRY MOORE.”

[*Holograph*, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 10.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN] GOODLAD.<sup>(1)</sup>

[Endorsed] “Letter from Mr. Palk, 25th January, 1767, dated on board the *Lord Camden*, Nathaniel Smith, in Madras Road on the day he embarked for Europe.”

1767, January 25th. On board the *Lord Camden*, Madras Road—“Dear Goodlad, I am much obliged to Mr. Bouchier and you for conveying the intelligence of Mr. Powney’s<sup>(2)</sup> safety. At any rate he is likely to make a better voyage than I had reason to expect.

“As I think I know the goodness of your heart fullwell, I could never doubt of the sincerity of its sentiments. I freely acknowledge that I have often felt a most particular satisfaction in your success and well known improvement, and those sentiments of honor and uprightness which I know will never fail to be your constant companions; and you can have none that you ought to be fonder of. There is no good fortune that can possibly happen to its greatest favorites that I do not most heartily wish you, and it will at all times give me pleasure to hear from you, or to be instrumental in promoting it.

“Mrs. Palk sends her most affectionate wishes, and I am, dear Goodlad, unalterably your sincere friend,

“ROBT. PALK.”

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 11.]

[ENSIGN] J. CARPENTER to [ROBERT PALK].

[Endorsed in Palk’s hand] “Mr. Carpenter, 25th January, 1767.”

1767, January 25th. Tritchinopoly.—“Give me leave to assure you that it is not in my power to express the sense

<sup>(1)</sup> William Martin Goodlad, a Madras civil servant of 1761, was Secretary in the Civil Department. He was a protégé of Palk, who was a friend of the Goodlad family.

<sup>(2)</sup> William Powney had arrived in the *Swan* at Tellicherry from Malacca. He was a younger son of Capt. John Powney, a seafaring man of Madras, who died in 1740.



I have of the very kind letter you honoured me with, or how much I am obliged to you for the favours you have shewn me. I most gratefully thank you, Sir, for your intentions to join my friends at home with your endeavours to recover the rank my former commission gives me. Mr. Webber was the gentleman that gott me first appointed. Last year my friends solicited and procured me the interest of Mr. Cruttendon and Mr. Harrison, both of which gentlemen expressed the greatest desire of serving me, and, I am perswaded, did every thing in their power then towards it. They likewise applied, Sir, to Mr. Barrington, Mr. Savage, Mr. Scrafton and Mr. Wheeler,<sup>(1)</sup> and engaged those gentlemen's interest in my behalf. As my present situation deprives me of the hopes of acquiring any thing farther than a maintenance suitable to the character we are in a great measure obligated to support at the expence of every thing valuable to us, and subjects me to such disagreeable inconveniences as to deprive me of serving me [*sic*] with that chearfulness necessary to our duty, I have wrote my friends that my whole welfare depends on the success of their endeavours in the strongest manner I were able ; but as you, Sir, know the very great difference between my present situation and that of those gentlemen who were appointed Lieutenants at the same time, or even those gentlemen who were then made Ensigns, notwithstanding they arrived in the country but a few months before me, I flatter myself, Sir, that it will be in your power to get me restored to the rank I am conscious to myself of never having deserved to be deprived of, and which I should be happy to shew myself not unworthy of possessing. This is the only hope I have, Sir, of ever seeing again my friends with pleasure or persuing with satisfaction the service I am engaged in. Most sincerely wishing you and family health and every happiness, I am, Sir, your ever obliged and obedient humble servant,

“ J. CARPENTER.”

[*Holograph*, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  p., 4to.]

[No. 12.]

GEORGE VANSITTART<sup>(2)</sup> to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr. Duplicate.

1767, February 15th. Madras.—“ Dear Palk, Two or three days after your departure I received letters from Russell<sup>(3)</sup> and Campbell<sup>(4)</sup> congratulating me on my being

(1) With the exception of William Webber, who was a Director from 1762 to 1765, the other patrons named, viz., Edward Holden Cruttenden, John Harrison, Fitzwilliam Barrington, Henry Savage, Luke Scrafton and Edward Wheeler, were Directors between 1765 and 1767.

(2) George Vansittart, Bengal civil service, younger brother of Henry Vansittart.

(3) Claud Russell, 6th Member of the Bengal Council. Russell entered the Madras civil service in 1752, and was transferred to Bengal in 1766. In 1775 he returned to Madras as a member of Lord Pigot's Council, and married one of the Governor's daughters.

(4) Alexander Campbell, a Bengal civil servant of 1763, was 11th member of Council at Calcutta in 1767.

appointed Resident at Midnapoor, and Campbell informs me that for this step I am entirely indebted to Lord Clive, who himself proposed it to the Board without solicitation, or even my name being mentioned to him. This is a favour which I little expected from his Lordship; my obligation to him is therefore the greater, and I think that I may now with much propriety make him the acknowledgement which you proposed by way of advance towards a reconciliation. You know I am sensible that in some respects I have acted wrong; I have no objection therefore to the making of such an acknowledgement on a motive of gratitude for the favour he has conferred on me, although, as there have been causes of complaint on both sides, I could not prevail on myself to do it through fear of his power. Inclosed is a letter to him on the subject. Consult with Harry<sup>(1)</sup> concerning it, and if you and he approve it, let it be delivered. We shall set out in a day or two for Bengal. The *John and James* schooner is to have the honour of carrying us.

“Yours very affectionately,  
[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

GEORGE VANSITTART.”

[No. 13.]

ROB[ER]T PALK<sup>(2)</sup> [jun.] to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1767, February 19th. Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, I embrace this opportunity of enquiring after your health and to thank you for your bountifull kindness to me. I hope that my future conduct will be such as to meet with your approbation, and that I shall have it in my power to make some return for the care you have taken of me from my infancy. I hope you will continue to favor me with your friendly advice, which hitherto has been of infinite service to me, and I do assure you it will always be gratefully received and acknowledged.

“I most sincerely wish you and Mrs. Palk may have a pleasant passage, and a happy meeting of your friends in England.

“Lord Clive quitted his Government the 26th ultimo in the evening, and embarked on board the *Brittannia* very much out of order. Before he resigned the Government a great many promotions were made, and amongst the rest George<sup>(3)</sup> to the Chiefship of Midnapore. If nothing better offers for me after my arrival in Calcutta, I intend to ask to be appointed his Assistant, if he approves it. At present George tells me I had better wait for something better, but I should be very well satisfied with that and the prospect of succeeding him in that employ some years hence. As George is in a great hurry to get down, we

<sup>(1)</sup> Henry Vansittart, Governor of Bengal, 1760—1765.

<sup>(2)</sup> Robert Palk, junr., a Bengal civil servant of 1763, was the second son of Walter Palk (elder brother of Governor Palk) by his second wife Mary Widdecombe.

<sup>(3)</sup> George Vansittart.

have taken our passage on the *John and James* schooner, and are to set out from Trivatore the morning after to-morrow.

“Mr. Pybus<sup>(1)</sup> has had a severe attack of his old disorder since your departure, which made him resolve to follow you on the *Anson*, Captain Linox, who arrived here four days ago, but the people on board have the smallpox to such a violent degree that numbers have died of it, and Mrs. Pybus insists on his not going on that ship, both on his own account and the child's. I believe he will be persuaded to wait till October.

“Captain Richardson has come off with flying colours. It appeared in the course of the examination that cloth was on board, but the captain and officers knew nothing of it. In short, the blame was thrown on the doctor, who died before the ship arrived at Bengal, and the purser, who told the Committee appointed for the enquiry that, since the blame was laid to him, he would not take up any of their time in contradicting it; so it ended in Captain Richardson's being requested to dismiss him, which he did, and made the purser an acknowledgement for his great good nature.<sup>(2)</sup> Mr. Mackey's<sup>(3)</sup> account of their transactions at Teneriffe and Richardson's don't agree at all, notwithstanding Mr. McKey wrote him what he had said about it. The *Pigot* is expected here every day.

“On our journey to Gingee, being the fourth person, [I] was under the necessity of playing at cards, and by bad management and ill luck was a considerable loser, which drove me to the necessity of applying to Mr. Morse<sup>(4)</sup> for Pags. 100.

“By a letter I have just received from my father I under-

(1) John Pybus arrived in India as a Writer in 1743. After the capture of Madras by de la Bourdonnais he went to Fort St. David, and in 1751 was one of the eight volunteer officers who joined Clive in the attack and subsequent defence of Arcot. Pybus was Supervisor at Fort Marlborough, Bencoolen, in 1754, and four years later, when in charge of the Fort St. George Mint, was taken into Council. In 1762 he was sent on a political mission to the King of Kandy, and wrote an interesting journal of his proceedings. He was a Trustee for the Nawab's consolidated debt of 1767. Pybus married Martha Small in 1753.

(2) George Richardson commanded the ship *Pigot*. Her surgeon was George Bethune, and purser Mark Carr.

(3) George Mackay came out originally as a free merchant in 1738, and traded for many years at Madras. When in England in 1766 he was appointed Assay-master at Fort St. George, and he joined his post in January, 1767. He was shortly afterwards admitted to Council with the proviso that he was always to remain its junior member. Mackay took an active part in the subversion of Lord Pigot's government in 1776, and he was recalled to England in consequence. He married in 1756 Sarah, daughter of John Stratton.

(4) Nicholas Morse, born in 1700, entered the Madras civil service at the age of eighteen. In 1728 he joined the Council, and shortly afterwards became Deputy Governor of Fort Marlborough in Sumatra, where he remained eighteen months. Returning to Madras in 1729 as a Councillor, he succeeded Richard Benyon as Governor in 1744. Two and a half years later Madras was attacked by the French under de la Bourdonnais, and capitulated under promise of ransom. The terms were repudiated by Dupleix, and Morse was carried prisoner to Pondicherry, but was released by exchange. He was summoned to England to render account of his actions, and eventually returned to Madras as a free merchant. From 1767 he acted as one of Palk's attorneys. He married Jane Goddard in 1730, and his daughter Emelia became the wife of Henry Vansittart. Morse died at Madras in 1772.



stand my brother<sup>(1)</sup> is coming out on the expected ships, but he doth not tell me whether he is coming here or to Bengal. Should he not come out in the Service, I hope you will interest your-self in getting him appointed to Bengal. All your friend[s] at this place are well, and every thing goes on just as you left them. I desire my compliments to Mrs. Palk, Mr. and Mrs. Van<sup>(2)</sup> and the General,<sup>(3)</sup> and am with great respect, dear Sir, Your most obliged and obedient humble servant,

“ROBT. PALK.”

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 14.]

CHOCAPAH<sup>(4)</sup> to the Honourable ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1767, March 3rd. Fort St. George.—“Honourable Sir, I shall be extreemly glad to hear of your Honour and family’s safe arrival in England and enjoy[ment of] a perfect health in that delightfull country.

“Since your Honour’s departure Mr. Bouchier<sup>(5)</sup> carrys on his government in good order, and every thing going on at the same terms [as] when you was here. The Company’s broad cloth on the 27th of last month [was] put up at publick outcry<sup>(6)</sup> at the Sea Gate on the usual terms, and sold about 30 lotts, each lott consisting [of] 5 bales, [viz.] 3 bales of Auroras, one bale Popinju,<sup>(7)</sup> and one bale ordinary red, and in some lotts one bale ordinary yellow, at 585 to 591 Pagodas per lott, and some Purpatanues<sup>(8)</sup> at the usual prices, and the remainder they could not sell at that time.

“Mupral Kistnayah, farmer of Beetle<sup>(9)</sup> and Tabacoa, having insulted with the Nabob and made demand [for] dutys for the trifling Beetle and Tabacoa bought for his Excellency’s use, which the Nabob represented to the Governour and Council; and then the Governour and Council examined this in consultation, and said to the said Mupral Kistnaya that he is not fit to be that farmer any longer, and took away the said Cowle<sup>(10)</sup> from him, and gave that farm to one Vidyamado

(1) Thomas Palk, son of Walter Palk by his third wife Mary Mugford, was half-brother of Robert Palk, jun.

(2) Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vansittart.

(3) General Stringer Lawrence.

(4) Chokappa Chetti was one of the “Company’s Merchants” who were charged with “the Investment.” The Merchants made advances of the Company’s money to the weavers, and were responsible for the delivery of the manufactured goods.

(5) Charles Bouchier, son of Richard Bouchier, Governor of Bombay, arrived at Madras in 1741 as a Writer. Ten years later he was Secretary, and in 1754, when Military Storekeeper, Rental General and Scavenger, was taken into Council. He succeeded Palk as Governor in 1767. His period of office was marked by the occurrence of the first Mysore war, and by the execution of a permanent rampart around the Black Town of Madras. Bouchier resigned and retired to England early in 1770.

(6) Public auction.

(7) *Auroras* and *Popinjays* were varieties of woollen cloth imported from England.

(8) *Perpeltanues*, a woollen cloth made in England, so called from its durability.

(9) *Beetle*, the betel leaf, used for chewing with areca nut and lime.

(10) *Cowle*, grant, permit, licence.

Modely, who was agent to Pushpunado Nainar sometime, and one Moodu Kistna Modely, the late Arrack farmer, for four years and five months from 1st of this month, at twenty three thousand Pagodas for every year.

“I shall be extreemly obliged to your Honour if you will be pleased to remember your old and faithfull servant Chocapah, and recommend him to your friends both here and coming up from thence. . . .

“We have not received any further news from Manilah, what they have done with our ship and cargo ; and if we are permitted to send our ships there to trade, it will be a very good thing for the merchants at this Settlement.

“Since your Honour’s departure, here is nothing materials that I can write to your Honour, but the Governour and Council deferred the new contract for the Honble. Company’s Investment for the present year untill first April. . . .

“CHOCAPAH.”

[*Autograph*, 1½ p., demy.]

[No. 15.]

MRS. MARY POWNEY<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1767, March 12th. Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, From the long acquaintance I have had the happiness to have with you flatters my hopes that you will pardon the intrusion of a few lines from an old friend to assure you of the greatfull sense I shall always retain of the friendship and many civilities you have so kindly, dear Sir, shewn me, and that my prayers will be constant for your safe arrival in England and the continuance of all blessings to you and yours. I hope some time before this reaches, you will be enjoying yourself in your own country. Pray present my respects to General Lawrence and Calliaud,<sup>(2)</sup> and believe me to be with much affection, esteem and respect, dear Sir, your most obliged friend and humble servant,  
MARY POWNEY.”

“P.S. Sir, I have the pleasure to acquaint you of my son Will<sup>(3)</sup> being safe and well at Malacca. Since, I hear he was arrived at Tellicherry and was going to Bombay, and I am afraid it will be a ruiness Voyage.”

[*Autograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 16.]

MOOPERALA KISTNIA<sup>(4)</sup> AND RAMA KISNA to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1767, March 15th. Fort St. George.—“Sir, I hope this will find you safely arrived in England, and that you and

(1) Mary Powney, daughter of Capt. George Heron, master mariner and marine surveyor, was the widow of Capt. John Powney, master mariner. She died a centenarian in 1780.

(2) General John Caillaud. *Vide* No. 73, p. 102, note 1.

(3) *Cf.* No. 10.

(4) Muperala Kistnaiya held the monopoly for the sale of betel and tobacco. He was the uncle of Ramakrishna.

your family have had the enjoyment of a perfect health . . . and that you will not forget your old faithfull servants who begin already to feel the want of your protection.

“Two days after your departure the Nabob delivered a petition to the Governor and Council accusing me of want of respect to him, and other trumped up storeys that I demanded dutys from him on beetle and tobacco brought for his household use. You may well remember, Sir, that I once informed you that on the Begum’s arrival there was large quantities of beetle demanded, of which the under servants made a job by selling at the market; and you was pleased to order me to acquaint Nazeeb Cawn to take just so much only as was wanted for the use of the Nabob’s family, and accordingly 45 bundles of beetle (instead of 60) was determined to be sufficient for every day’s expence; and at the same time I shewed him the account of the beetle supplied to that time, amounting to twelve thousand fanams,<sup>(1)</sup> which he said he would see about. No more past between the Nabob and me untill the day after your departure, when some tobacco being imported for the Nabob was, according to custom, brought to my godown. The third day after it was brought, and when my Peons<sup>(2)</sup> carried it to Nazeeb Cawn, they carried also a memorandum at his own request of the dutys thereon, which amounted to a pagoda and odd fanams, and of this the Nabob made a handle as if I had slighted and made little account of him; and the Governor and Council was pleased to reprimand me very much for it, and determined that it was a sufficient cause to forfeit my cowl, and the farm was disposed of to Vaydanadum and Moodukisna conicopoly<sup>(3)</sup> on the 23rd ultimo for twenty three thousand pagodas per annum for the remainder time that I was to have enjoyed it.

“I delivered your letter of recommendation to Mr. Bourchier before the determination of Council, but it produced no favourable effect. I would not have given up the affair so easily had not Mr. Morse seemed very desirous that I should be rid of this business. Besides, I was very sensible that I could have got no redress here, and that the only way to have righted myself would have been to have pushed the matter further; but to a person of my time of life it would be too troublesome and vexatious. . .

“Upon desiring Mr. Bourchier’s advice w[h]at was best to be done, whether we should put in an answer into the Council, he told me the Nabob was so irritated that there was no other method of pacifying him but to surrender up my right quietly: that the Nabob had thoughts even of taking away the grant of the village that was allowed for the support of Ramaniaka’s

(1) The number of silver fanams to the gold pagoda varied with the exchange. At this period it was 42.

(2) *Peons*, office-attendants, orderlies, foot-soldiers, from Port. *peao*.

(3) *Conicoply*, an accountant, from Tam. *kanakka*, writing, and *pillai*, person.



charity choultry<sup>(1)</sup> at Checrecoad, and that it was with difficulty he (Mr. Bouchier) dis[s]uaded him from it. . . .

"The diamond business is growing worse and worse every day, and if the Gentlemen in England don't stop [the] making of remittances,<sup>(2)</sup> they will lose a great deal. The prices at Moonimadgoo is risen since the purchase for last ship, and the demand for diamonds increases daily. Gocul<sup>(3)</sup> laughs when he is asked for the 5,000 pagodas of diamonds he promised you to give Mr. Morse for this ship, nor can Mr. Morse have any remedy whilst he [is] supported by gentlemen in station. Diamonds are carried now to Bengal and Surat, as there are people now who purchase at those places for Europe.

"We desire you will recommend us to your friends in power here that we may always have their protection. We wish only to live a quiet life. Please to present our humble respects to Mrs. Palk. We are very gratefully, Sir, your most obliged and obedient humble servants,

"MOOPERALA KISTNIA."

"RAMA KISNA."

[Holograph of Rama Kisna, 5½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 17.]

GEORGE VANSITTART to ROB[ERT] PALK, Esqr.

1767, March 16th. Calcutta.—"Dear Palk, Inclosed is a duplicate of my letter of the 15th of February. A strong north-east wind detained us at Madras from the 20th to the 27th. We arrived here the day before yesterday, and the day after to-morrow I set out for Midnapoor, where I shall be very well contented to remain quiet and undisturbed for some years. I believe I may be saved the trouble of a trip to Europe even if their honours in Leadenhall Street should take it into their heads to dismiss me in consequence of our last year's rebellion; for I have been positively assured by people who I should think must know that in such case the Committee will recommend me to be reinstated, and in the mean while continue me in the service till their further pleasure can be received. I am at present on perfectly good terms with all our rulers, and intend to adopt some of your prudential maxims.

"What with 30,000 rupees which we have lent to Russell, and the 20,000 which we are to pay to Robin, your balance will be but a trifle. We shall keep it in our own hands at 8 per cent. till we have a good opportunity of remitting it.

"My love to Mrs. Palk and the little ones. Yours affectionately,

GEORGE VANSITTART."

[Holograph, 2¼ pp., 4to.]

(1) Choultry, a shelter for travellers, from Tel. *chavadi*, a hall, shed.

(2) A common mode of making private remittances from India was by means of diamonds.

(3) Gokal Tarvadi, diamond merchant, Cf No. 20.

[No. 18.]

MRS. REBECCA CASAMAIJOR<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

[Endorsed in Palk's hand] "Mrs. Casamayor."

1767, March 16th. Fort St. George.—“My dear Sir, As no distance of place can ever decrease the respect, esteem and gratitude that is due from me, I hope you will excuse the liberty I take in troubling you with a few lines to assure you of my ardent wishes that it may salute you in your native land after a short and pleasant voyage in health and a continuance of all other blessings. I suppose by this time you have reached the Cape or pretty near it, and hope Mrs. Palk and the little ones will be much benefited by its fine air and all other refreshments. As you, dear Sir, have so great a number of friends to write you all occur[r]ences, I shall only mention, what I know will give you pleasure, that our new Governor<sup>(2)</sup> goes on very well under the weight of government, in great spirits, and with much polit[e]ness and cheerfulness entertaining his friends and company. I hope he will continue in health and strength to acquit himself to the satisfaction of all his well wishers. Give me leave to present my son's<sup>(3)</sup> best respects, and that I am, with all acknowledgments and regard, dearest Sir, your affectionate and much obliged humble servant,

“REBECCA CASAMAIJOR.”

[Holograph, 1½ p., 4to.]

[No. 19.]

[COLONEL] JOHN CALL<sup>(4)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr. Duplicate.

1767, March, 19th. Madras.—“My dear Friend, As I persuaded myself you will impatiently expect to hear of the progress of the Confederacy against Hydre Ally, so I take up the pen with the greater pleasure to give you the state of our military as well as civil transactions since you left us.

(1) Rebecca Casamaijor, daughter of Capt. John Powney, master mariner, was the widow of Noah Casamaijor, a supercargo at Madras in 1732, who in 1741 was appointed to the office of Accountant, and, after rising to the rank of Factor, died in 1746.

(2) Charles Bourchier.

(3) James Henry Casamaijor, who entered the Madras civil service in 1762, and was second of Council in 1789.

(4) John Call, member of a Cornish family, began his Indian career in 1751 as an assistant to Benjamin Robins, F.R.S., Engineer General, and was graded as a civil servant. Working first on the St. David fortifications, he succeeded Captain John Brohier in 1757 as Engineer at Fort St. George. He developed and extended the latter fort, and was largely responsible for its successful defence during Lally's siege of 1758-59. He was then given military rank as Captain, and laid out the western extension of the White Town. In 1761 he conducted the siege of Pondicherry, and became Engineer in Chief in India. In 1762 he was in the Madras Council, and two years later was present at the siege of Madura. In 1768 he was one of the Field Deputies with the army. He retired to England as Colonel in 1770, became a member of parliament in 1784, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and in 1791 was created a baronet.

“Very soon after Colonel Smith<sup>(1)</sup> arrived at Eiderabad, which was the 15th or 16th January, the Subah<sup>(2)</sup> pitched his tents without the city, and in a few days proceeded towards the Kistnah, which he crossed the 18th ultimo, having spent some time in settling with the Polygars<sup>(3)</sup> on his route. The 19th Captain James Fitzgerald’s battalion and Lieut. Pover’s detachment joined Colonel Smith, who had been very uneasy at the delay of our troops; but he will be obliged to wait much longer for those from the Circars, because it was found necessary to reduce the Zemindars<sup>(4)</sup> of Peddapore and Samilcotah, which kept Major Thomas Fitzgerald’s detachment till the 15th February, and the 9th instant he was only advanced as far as Sangaverum near Eiderabad, so that it will be the 25th instant or perhaps the end of the month before he can possibly join the Subah, who on the 26th ultimo was just entering the country of Adony. The troops from hence and Vellore were delayed in the beginning of February by exceeding heavy rain, which laid all the country under water and made it the 18th February before they joined at Lalapett. From thence they were to cross into the Cadapah country at a pass called Mungalpettah, but having been disappointed of provisions from Arcott, it was the 11th instant before they crossed the hills, and they are now only near Cadapah, from whence you may judge it will be the end of the month before they can join the Subah’s army.

“Mahadarow<sup>(5)</sup> with his Marattas was early in motion and made very rapid advances to the southward, so that his troops entered the country of Adony and begun to plunder it by the end of January. After some threats and a little burning and fighting, which we suppose was by the Subah’s connivance, Bazalet Jing<sup>(6)</sup> settled with Mahadarow, and the Marattas proceeded towards Sera.<sup>(7)</sup> One of Hydre Ally’s Generals met them with a considerable body of horse, but he was defeated, made prisoner, and all his guns and baggage taken. Another smaller body met the like fate, and the Marattas by the last accounts we had were besieging Sera or Sirpi with their main body, while the rest scampered all over the country. Hydre

(1) General Joseph Smith, son of Mr. Joseph Smith, who was Gunner and Engineer of Fort St. George in 1744, entered the Madras service as Ensign in 1749. In 1757 he defended Trichinopoly against d’Auteuil, and was promoted Major in 1760. As Brigadier-General he commanded the Madras Army almost continuously from 1767 to 1775, conducting the campaigns against Haidar Ali and the Raja of Tanjore, and the expedition of 1772 against the Maravars. He retired to England in 1775.

(2) *The Subah*, the ruler of the Deccan, Nizam Ali Khan. The word signifies a province, but it was commonly used for *subahdar*, the ruler of a province.

(3) *Polygars*, local chiefs, the descendants of the old Naiks.

(4) *Zemindars*, important landholders.

(5) Mādhu Rao, fourth Peshwa, 1761—1772.

(6) Basālat Jang, brother of the Nizam. Although the Northern Circars had been granted to the Company by the Mogul in 1765, it was arranged in 1768 that Basālat Jang should hold Guntūr for life.

(7) Sira, formerly capital of a province of the same name, S.E. of Chitaldrug in Mysore. It passed from Haidar to the Marathas, but was reduced by Tipu in 1774.



Ally during all this time is at Syringapatam, either collecting his forces or endeavoring to compromise matters for money. The latter, it is said, will take place, because it is not the intention either of the Marattas or the Subah to remain on this side the Kistnah longer than the month of May.

“Allarmed at the apprehension of this event, and that all our project will be frustrated, we are going to send James Bouchier<sup>(1)</sup> to make representations both to the Subah and Mahadarow how impossible it is to effect the overthrow of Hydre Ally in any year if they only cross the River Kistnah in January and recross it in May. For Hydre Ally, aware of this, need only garrison the places in the Sera Country and those of his late conquest north of the ancient Mysore country, and keeping behind Syringapatam with his main body, will never have any thing to apprehend but the burning and ruining part of the open country. Whereas if we proceed hand in hand and continue our operations during the whole year, there is no doubt but the expedition may be accomplished. Mr. Bouchier is also to endeavor to bring about a formal Treaty between the Subah and Mahadarow, for which I lately drew out the enclosed reflections and articles.<sup>(2)</sup> This Treaty we esteem absolutely necessary, for we cannot discover that any agreement at present subsists, and it is said that the Marattas proceeds on in the manner they do that they may have the first plundering of the country and possession of what places they can take. This is a system that must bring on disputes, and will save Hydre Ally if not prevented.

“The Marattas, it seems, are jealous of the large force we are sending to the Subah, and from the delay of our troops conclude we never meant heartily to enter into the operations against Hydre Ally. In a conversation yesterday with the Maratta Vakeel<sup>(3)</sup> Mr. Bouchier endeavored to remove that opinion, and assured him it was so much our intention to proceed to the utmost extremitys against Hydre Ally that if Mahadarow would either continue himself on this side the Kistnah during the year, or leave Gopall Harry<sup>(4)</sup> with 10,000 horse, we would do all we could to persuade the Subah to persist, and exert our utmost efforts to expell Hydre Ally from the Mysore country. The Vakeel seemed much pleased with the assurance, and declared his master wished for nothing so much as to continue the expedition with us, and he would immediately acquaint him of our resolutions.

“Thus stand affairs at present, and the prospect of accomplishing our views in the ruin of Hydre Ally is very unpromising.

(1) James Bouchier, brother of Governor Charles Bouchier, entered the Madras civil service in 1751. Ten years later he was a Prize Commissary after the capture of Pondicherry, and in 1768 was a member of Council. He left India with his brother in January, 1770.

(2) *Vide infra* p. 31 *et seq.*

(3) *Vakeel*, agent, envoy.

(4) Gopal Hari Pant, the Peshwa's Commander-in-Chief.

The Subah affects to say that the reason so little has been done is owing to the delay of our troops, which he expected would have joined him the beginning of February; that therefore nothing can be done this year, and it will be better to take a sum of money for the present, and return again early next year on a better plan of operations. To this it may justly be answered that unless the troops employed against Hydre Ally continue their operations the whole year, it will be impossible to remove him from the Mysore government, because he has nothing to do but put good garrisons in his frontier places and avoid a battle with his main body. Three or four months will then soon be spent, and there ends all his fears. Whereas if Sera, Chinnabollarum, Bengalure and the other countries and places north of the Mysore country be first taken, and the united forces proceed in a body to Syringapatam, Hydre Ally must either try his fortune in the field or lose the capital, and therewith all his power and influence. I shall only add that we shall use every argument we can suggest to induce the Subah and Mahadarow, either in person or by part of their troops, to continue the campaign during the whole year; and if we find they are determined to return in May, we must take care not to let our expences exceed the money agreed to be paid the Subah, and we shall know better what dependance to place on such Allys hereafter. To say that the Nabob<sup>(1)</sup> hath contributed all in his power by suggestions and jealousys to break our connections with the Subah would be advancing what I have no proof of, but if one may judge from conversation and appearances, he certainly does all he can to disgust us with Nizam Ally, and to bring about a closer alliance with the Marattas, in hopes, I suppose, by their means to share in the conquests to be made on Hydre Ally. However, he will be mistaken, for except the country of Dindigull and other places on this side the hills, he never shall have possession of any other while I can help it.

“The disturbances in the Tinnevely countrys still continue. Major Flint,<sup>(2)</sup> after taking two heavy guns from Polamecotah and a quantity of stores proper for a siege, marched against the Etavaram Polygar, which lays near Veypar on the east of that province. He breached the Fort and assaulted it, but was again repulsed with loss. He then determined to blockade it, but the Polygars making a sally in the night and being roughly treated, they abandoned that place, Pannyallum Crutch and Veypur, and fled no one knows where; at least we shall probably hear no more of them till our troops are recalled. On the west side of the province the rebell Polygars are still very numerous and in possession of many places, such as Shatore, Rajapollam, Collangoody and Nadcutch, so that while they remain there is no chance of peace. Considering

(1) Nawab Walajah.

(2) William Flint, sen., held the rank of Colonel in 1775.

therefore that keeping Major Flint's party always in the field, and that party not being sufficient to crush the rebels or protect the country, will not only incur a considerable expence, but the Nabob will still suffer the loss of great part of his revenues, we have resolved to send 200 Europeans more to join Major Flint's party, some sepoy and guns, intending that the whole shall be 400 military with 6 guns and 2,000 sepoy of the Company's, besides the Nabob's troops and the Auxiliaries of Tanjore, Tondeman<sup>(1)</sup> and the Marawar.<sup>(2)</sup> Donald Campbell,<sup>(3)</sup> as the next eldest officer to Colonel Smith, is to command, and part of his regiment is gone from Vellore. The Nabob has been very pressing for this party to be sent, and by some hints occasionally let fall he seems to have in view the quarrelling with the two Marawars<sup>(4)</sup> and taking their country. However, to prevent such a measure he has been positively told that while he keeps Madurah it is necessary these people should be his friends, and Donald Campbell has instructions not to enter the Marawar country under any pretence, nor suffer any of their places to be attacked. His operations are to be confined to the rebell Polygars, and these he is directed to extirpate, to demolish every fort, to make severe examples of those he takes, and to establish a cantonment in such part between Madurah and Polamecotah as will best answer the purpose of keeping the country in peace. Donald's knowledge of these parts and the honesty of his disposition will answer our purpose in sending him, and soon put an end to the troubles.

"About the middle of last month the Nabob came to the Fort, and having desired to speak to Mr. Bourchier and me, confessed to us that he was quite tired with troubles raised and complaints made to him every day by his managers in the country of Warriarpollam and Ariclore. He therefore desired that we would again take those places under the Company's protection and raise another battalion of sepoy out of his troops at these places for the defence of them, but to be commanded, disciplined and paid by the Company, though made good at the end of the year by him. He then said he would withdraw or dismiss the rest of his troops, and leave the suppressing Polygars and establishing peace and security entirely to us, in which he said he hoped the King of Tanjore would give more effectual and ready assistance. As we hoped a trial made of these plans of reconciling the Nabob's management of the revenues with our command of the forces might

(1) *Tondiman* was the designation of the ruler of a small territory, now the Pudukottai State, lying immediately south of Trichinopoly.

(2) *Marawar*, the ruler of the Marava country. His territory lay on the coast south of Tanjore and east of Madura, its chief town being Ramnād.

(3) Donald Campbell, brother of Colonel Charles Campbell, was present at the first siege of Madura in 1763. He conducted the campaign of 1767 against the rebel Polygars of Madura and Tinnevely, and subsequently served in the first Mysore war.

(4) The Great and Little Marawars, of Ramnād and Kalaiyarkoil respectively.



induce him to come more readily into the same measure for the Tinnevely country, and by degrees dismiss all his sepoys, or at least turn over the best of them to the Company, we very willingly agreed to his proposal and have chosen Captain Mathews<sup>(1)</sup> with two subaltern[s] of the best dispositions and characters to form this new battalion, to be called the 16th, and to settle the country. Captain Mathews has very particular instructions for his behavior, and is fully acquainted of our hopes and views, and we have such an opinion of his honor and good temper that we flatter ourselves we shall be able to convince the Nabob that good men under proper orders are capable of protecting instead of injuring his affairs.

“After much trouble and some altercation with the creditors, we got the form of a general Assignment and new bonds agreed to, and having collected in all the outstanding bonds and calculated the interest to the 31st January, new bonds were made out for even sums of money, and all the odd pagodas, fanams and cash<sup>(2)</sup> paid off, so that we find the Nabob's real debt to his private creditors the 1st January, 1767, amounts to 55,800 Porto Novo and 22,29,650 Star Pagodas.<sup>(3)</sup> To discharge this the Nabob has engaged that his Naib<sup>(4)</sup> at Arcott shall remit us from certain countrys during this year 8 Lacks<sup>(5)</sup> of pagodas, and that the King of Tanjore shall pay us his tribute, so that we are to have above 9 lacks of pagodas. All this is very well, but three months of the year are nearly elapsed and not one single pagoda is yet come to our hands, nor can I say when these will. The Gentlemen from Bengall who are creditors write in very strange terms, and tax the Council here with having been very arbitrary and gone much beyond the Company's orders, and add that they are allowed by the regulations there to take the usual interest till the 30th April, and after that 12 per cent., which they expect to have, or else demand immediate payment of their money. This is very fine in speculation : I may as well insist on it that I should have 8 per cent. for my money in England because I live at [a] place where it is the common rate of interest. And as to demanding their money, why every body else would do so could they get it. It is necessity that has pointed out the present regulation to put every body on a footing, and not any orders of the Council, and I do firmly believe that all the

(1) Richard Mathews served in the first Mysore war, and commanded at the attack of the hill fort of Mulbagal in 1768. In 1783, when Brigadier General in Malabar, he was besieged by Tipu at Bednore. The place surrendered after a protracted defence, and Mathews was taken to Seringapatam, where he died in confinement.

(2) The *Cash* was a coin of account, 80 going to the silver *fanām*. The *Pagoda* at this period contained 12 fanams. The smallest copper coin struck appears to have had the value of 4 cash of account.

(3) The *Star Pagoda*, first struck in 1741, was a gold coin with the device of a star on the reverse. Its sterling value was about 8s. The *Porto Novo Pagoda* was coined by the Nawab and was of lower weight and value.

(4) *Naib*, deputy.

(5) *Lack*, *lakh*, 100,000.

wise heads in India could not have devised a more equitable or simple method than we have established. The Nabob now knows what he owes and to whom (which he never did before) and every body knows how much he owes and the measures taken to pay off his debts fairly and equally to all as the money comes in. We keep an open diary of our proceedings and a regular sett of books open to the inspection of every creditor, so that the most obstinate may be convinced of the justice that is done them.

"The Nabob has sent part of his baggage to the Mount<sup>(1)</sup> and proposes to leave us about the 23rd instant. It is high time he was gone, for he never will be easy himself nor let others be so while he stays here and listens to every tale that is brought him. Nazcabeaur Cawn<sup>(2)</sup> has been playing some tricks at court, and he has got the Subah to forbid the Nabob's Vakeel from going to the Durbar or from going near Colonel Smith. This same chap too affects to assume the management of all our affairs, and lets Colonel Smith know just what he pleases. The Nabob is much displeased at this, and begs we will get him removed, for he will otherwise spoil all his and our affairs. The fifth lack is not yet gone either in bills or money, nor do I hear when it is to go.

"Lewin Smith<sup>(3)</sup> hath recovered half the old ballances from Hussein Ally, and therewith supplied the northern factorys with Madrass pagodas,<sup>(4)</sup> which we cannot get here at any rate. He is now at Setteavaram settling with Sittaramrauze,<sup>(5)</sup> but it seems that chap is very untractable, and does not seem inclineable to pay even two lacks of pagodas for the Chicacole Circars. The first point Lewin sticks on is bills for the 3rd Kist<sup>(6)</sup> of last year, and he says he hopes to get them in a day or two. Then he will proceed to the conditions of this year. Sittaramrauz wants assistance to reduce more Zemindars. This we are determined not to give, for the more powerful he is made by our means the more troublesome he will prove to us hereafter, and I think I see already that he must be reduced next year or the latter end of this.

(1) St. Thomas's Mount, a hill 8 miles S.W. of Madras, capped by an ancient Portuguese chapel, is the reputed original burial place of St. Thomas. The East India Company established a garden-house at the Mount in 1685, and the place became a sanatorium and holiday resort. From 1770 it was the headquarters of the Madras Artillery.

(2) Najib Yār Khān.

(3) John Lewin Smith entered the Madras civil service in 1752, and two years later was a member of the Vizagapatam Council. He accompanied the expedition of Cornish and Draper to Manila in 1762 as one of the Company's representatives. In 1767 he was serving as Chief at Masulipatam.

(4) The *Old Madras Pagoda* bore figures of Vishnu and his two wives on the obverse, and had a granulated reverse. It was replaced by the *M.M. Pagoda* in 1730, which gave way in its turn to the *Star Pagoda*. The *Old Madras Pagoda* however continued to be struck at Fort St. George for use in the Northern Settlements.

(5) Sitarām Rāz was a powerful Zemindar of Chicacole in the Northern Circars, who tyrannized over his weaker brethren.

(6) *Kist*, Ar., instalment of revenue.

"We have made Bandarmalanka<sup>(1)</sup> an independant factory of Mazulipatam, and given Whitehill<sup>(2)</sup> leave to send one of the servant[s] to Madapollam in hopes of getting more cloth. Sulivan<sup>(3)</sup> is gone with him as an assistant. Charles or James Bouchier will tell you a long story of the Vizagapatam Investment. I fear that part of the *Camden's* cargoe is in the same condition; if so, it may spoil the sale of all the other goods; therefore it should be hinted to the Directors to examine the Vizagapatam bales. The discovery has retarded the dispatch of the ship much, and given us abundance of trouble, for some of the Council attend every day to examine every bale and every piece. Nor is this all the inconvenience we have to apprehend, for many other bales from the northward not being arrived, we fear we shall not have tonnage enough for the *Pigot*.

"We have yet received no further news of our Manilla ship, nor of the sepoys from Zoloo.<sup>(4)</sup> The *Minerva* from Pegu is just come into the road, but I cannot say what kind of voyage she is likely to make. The *Swan*, after many perils and adventures, got safe to Malacca, and from thence sailed to the Malabar coast, where, we hear, she arrived the middle of January, and Will Powney<sup>(5)</sup> was then very well. The *Devonshire's* packet and recruits were landed at Anjengo and sent to Palamcotah, from whence we received our letters, and among them several for you, which Mr. Morse took in charge. This ship was at anchor in our road during part of the gale of wind, and suffered much in the masts and rigging, so that she was obliged to bear away for Galle after trying to reach Madrass again.

"I have now written all the publick news I can recollect. As for private anecdotes I have none but such as you will have elsewhere, especially of George,<sup>(6)</sup> who left us about three weeks ago. A sly chap he was never to drop an hint or let me discover by any means what he was about. Though I knew it very soon, yet we never exchanged a syllable on the subject to the time of his embarking from [? for] Bengall. Poor James

(1) Bandarmalanka. *Vide* No. 69, p. 94, note 2.

(2) John Whitehill entered the Madras civil service in 1752, and was one of the Prize Commissaries for Pondicherry in 1761. When Chief at Masulipatam in 1776 he visited England, and on his return in the following year found himself provisional Governor pending Thomas Rumbold's arrival. He again acted as Governor in 1780 until suspended by the Governor General for disobedience.

(3) John Sulivan was one of three brothers who served in Madras. The eldest, Benjamin, arrived in India as a barrister in 1777, and was appointed successively Government Advocate, Attorney General, and a Judge of the High Court. The second brother, John, entered the civil service in 1765, successfully tendered in 1771 for the erection of the Madras Arsenal and new Hospital, and afterwards served at Masulipatam and Tanjore. From 1801 to 1805 he was Under Secretary for War at home, and he survived until 1839. His younger brother, Richard Joseph, became a Writer in 1768, was afterwards Secretary in the Military Department at Fort St. George, and was created a baronet in 1804.

(4) *Zoloo*, Sulu, a group of islands in the Eastern Archipelago, whither Alexander Dalrymple had been sent in 1762, to open up trade with Madras.

(5) *Vide* No. 10, p. 14, note 2.

(6) George Vansittart and James Bouchier both sought the hand of Miss Sarah Stonhouse. The lady accepted Vansittart.



was greatly hurt at first, and is still very dolorous, though he declares he will not think of any closer connection.

"Government seems to set very easy on our Friend. He is very desirous of making every boddy happy, and of pleasing. I ease him as much as possible of all military plans and details, and indeed I am never happier than when I can be of use to him or the publick. I shall be perfectly easy till I hear from you or see Mr. Du Pré<sup>(1)</sup> arrive, and then I shall consider about returning to England, but I will do nothing rashly. My concerns in the Nabob's hands will keep me at least till the end of next year, let what will happen, for I must get home some more money.

"Lord Clive writes me, just as he was preparing to embark, that he should endeavor to send Dupré to Bengall if he was not appointed to this place before his Lordship got home. For my part I am as indifferent about it as ever I was about any event of my life, and I think I should rather rejoice than repine at a good reason for going home.

"I hope you have found England every thing you expected or could wish it. Perhaps the introduction of Mr. Pitt—I should say Lord Chatham—and Lord Shelbourne to the Ministry may have brought Mr. Sullivan<sup>(2)</sup> again into the direction, and consequently Mr. Van.<sup>(3)</sup> I wish all my friends well and

(1) Josias Du Pré, son of the Company's Secretary of the same name, entered the Madras civil service as Factor in 1752 at the advanced age of 31. He served as Secretary and Solicitor to Government, and in 1761 was Tenth of Council and Import Warehousekeeper. After a period spent in England, during which he married Rebecca, sister of James Alexander of the civil service, he returned to Madras in 1768 as second member of Council. He negotiated the peace of 1769 with Haidar Ali at St. Thomas's Mount, and in January, 1770, succeeded Mr. Bouchier in the chair. His period of office was marked by a great development of the fortifications and buildings of the Presidency town, by improvement in the pay and position of the Company's servants, and by difficult relations with the Nawab resulting from the action of the Crown. Du Pré resigned in February, 1773, and returned to England to reside at Wilton Park, Bucks.

(2) Laurence Sullivan was appointed a Factor in the Bombay civil service in 1741. Ten years later he entered Council, but returned to England in 1752 on account of ill-health. In 1755 he was elected a Director of the Company and served four years, becoming Deputy Chairman in 1757 and Chairman in 1758. Thereafter he was repeatedly re-elected to the Directorate, and he held office as Deputy Chairman in 1763, 1772 and 1780, and as Chairman in 1760, 1761 and 1781. From 1760 he was in conflict with Clive's party, who opposed his great influence on Indian policy. When invited by a resolution of the Court of Proprietors to return to India, Clive made his acceptance conditional on Sullivan's exclusion from the Chairmanship in 1764. From 1765 to 1768 Sullivan was out of the Direction, but his impecunious circumstances and love of power impelled him to bid for office again and again. He was on good terms with Hastings, and was an intimate friend of Robert Palk. Sullivan sat as M.P. for Taunton from 1762 to 1768, and for Ashburton from 1768 to 1774. He died in February, 1786.

(3) Henry Vansittart, son of Arthur Vansittart of Shottesbrook, Berks (whose daughter Anne married Robert Palk) was born in 1732. His mother was a daughter of Sir John Stonhouse, Bt. Appointed to the Madras civil service at the age of thirteen, Vansittart arrived at Fort St. David in 1746, narrowly escaping capture off Madras, which had been taken by the French. He studied Persian assiduously, and early in 1754, when Secretary and Translator at Fort St. George, he joined the Rev. Robert Palk in a mission to Sadras to confer with the French regarding a suspension of hostilities. In the following December he accompanied Palk to Pondicherry in connexion with the Treaty of Peace with the French. In the same

happy, and I know of none who partake more sincerely of my best wishes than you and Mrs. Palk, to whom I desire my most respectful compliments, hope all the little family is well, and desire you will believe me, my dear Sir, your most oblige[d] and affectionate

“JOHN CALL.”

[*Autograph, 21 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.*]

[*Enclosure.*]

[MEMORANDUM BY COLONEL JOHN CALL.]

“We are now entering on a very interesting and expensive expedition, but the expence will be well laid out if the grand object can be accomplished. This object is the entire overthrow of Hydre Ally Cawn, who has usurped the government of the Maysore country, and being at the head of a large body of forces, in possession of a considerable treasure and revenues, and ambitious of extending his conquests, appears ready to take the first opportunity of invading the Carnatick and disturbing the tranquility of that part of the country which it is our principal care and interest to maintain and preserve in peace.

“The Marattas, it is imagined, are equally desirous of reducing Hydre Ally’s power, and fortunately for us Nizam Ally Cawn, Subah of the Decan, hath desired that the assistance of our troops, which we are bound by treaty to give him, shall immediately be employed for the same purpose. Nothing could tally more exactly with our own interest and inclination at this juncture ; and though we ought to be exceeding cautious how we contribute to aggrandize the power of the Marattas, yet as it is not possible for us to act against them in conjunction with the Presidency of Bengal, agreeable to Lord Clive’s grand plan of reducing the Maratta power in general, till we have reduced Hydre Ally and secured peace to the Carnatick while we are employed elsewhere, so on this occasion we must temporise and seem to fall in with the views of the Marattas, who are the avowed and natural enemies of Hydre Ally.

“The grand point we have to obtain at the first setting out is to bring about a formal Treaty between the Subah and Marattas, by which the pretensions of each party may be ascertained, and the disposition of the conquered countries fixed. For unless this is done it is hardly possible that two powers acting from different motives and independent

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year he had married Emelia, daughter of Nicholas Morse, late Governor of Madras. He was a member of Mr. Pigot’s Council in 1758, and in the following year was nominated Governor of Bengal in succession to Clive. Vansittart assumed office in July, 1760, and ruled Bengal until 1764, when he returned to England. He purchased a house at Greenwich and property in Berkshire. Entering Parliament in 1768, he was elected a Director of the East India Company in 1769, and was appointed one of three Commissioners to effect reforms in India. The Commissioners sailed in the *Aurora* in September, 1769, and the ship was never heard of after she left the Cape in December.

of each other should persist in the prosecution of an enterprise where many events may be expected to embroil them with each other, or to divert one of them from the undertaking. With us it is quite different : we only seek to procure tranquility for the possessions we have, and we think that point cannot be obtained while Hydre Ally Cawn continues to govern the Mysore country. No offers, no concessions, no opposition ought to divert us from our purpose if it can be effected : on the other hand we had better never engage in it unless we can make sure of our Allys and fix them steady in the same pursuit.

“The Subah, it may be supposed, will be the most easily prevailed on to abandon the expedition, provided Hydre Ally makes large offers of money, because the Subah’s treasury is quite empty, and there is a strong party at his court, who, actuated by the same motive, will plead strongly in favor of Hydre Ally. Should we discover this to be the case, and the Marattas continue firm, we must endeavor to form a closer connection with them, for it may be regarded as certain that with their assistance the object of the expedition may be accomplished though the Subah should not take any part therein. Nay, more, it is highly probable that the Subah, seeing us and the Marattas determined to persist, will rather fall in with our views than risque the loss of his importance by withdrawing from the Alliance.

“But should the Marattas, either by the force of money or from a political motive founded on the apprehensions they may entertain of ours and the Subah’s designs against them after the downfall of Hydre Ally is effected, be induced to accommodate matters with Hydre Ally, and, while the Subah is engaged on the expedition, form designs on any part of the Decan or threaten the Carnatick with an invasion, it is beyond a doubt that we shall be obliged to relinquish the enterprise. This event then is to be guarded against by every precaution we can suggest, and in order to accomplish the establishing a Treaty, as well as to reconcile all jealousys and apply in time proper arguments to prevail on both parties to adopt our sentiments, it appears highly necessary that some person of consequence should be sent to attend the Subah and Mahadarow while Colonel Smith is engaged in his military operations, who by his address and attention to every turn and event may manage both parties in such a manner as to keep them steady in prosecuting unanimously the expedition against Hydre Ally.

“One maxim must be laid down as positive and without deviation (*viz.*) That as little territorial possession as possible be ceded to the Marattas, and in case the cession of some part cannot be avoided, then it should be in that part of Hydre Ally’s possessions most remote from the Carnatick, that they may not become our neighbours. To obviate any discontent on this head, a larger sum of ready money must be given by



the Subah, and the future Choute<sup>(1)</sup> be engaged to be punctually paid.

“On these principles it is to be wished that the following articles could be agreed to between the Subah and the Marattas under our guarantee.

“1st. The contracting Powers, assisted by the English forces, shall mutually and vigorously act in conjunction against Hydre Ally Cawn till he falls in action, is made a prisoner, or quits the government of the Maysore country and all other countries he has usurped; and neither party shall withdraw their forces or make a separate peace without the consent and approbation of the other party.

“2nd. Whatever forts or towns may be taken during the course of the expedition shall be garrisoned and kept by the Subah's troops till disposed of as hereafter stipulated; and in case any treasure is found therein or otherwise taken, it should be equally divided between the contracting parties.

“3rd. When Syringapatam is taken and the country of Mysore entirely reduced, the government of it shall be restored to the ancient family of the Rajah upon their agreeing to pay annually a tribute or peshcush<sup>(2)</sup> to the Subah of—lacks of rupees.

“4th. The country dependant on Sera or Sirpi being an ancient domain of the Subah of the Decan, he shall be at liberty to appoint whom he pleases to the government thereof, and fix the peshcush at what sum he thinks proper.

“5th. The country lately conquered by Hydre Ally Cawn from the Queen of Biddanore shall be given up (if it cannot be avoided) to the Marattas, to be by them restored to the late family that governed, on such terms as they can agree on.

“6th. All the other countrys and districts on the Malabar coast conquered by Hydre Ally shall be restored to the late possessors on such conditions as the Subah shall think proper; unless under this article the Subah, in return for the services we may have rendered him, shall so manage that the English Company may have certain grants and privileges near Calicut, Tillichery, Onor,<sup>(3)</sup> or at other places most convenient for their trade.

“7th. The country of Bangalure, that of Chinnaballabaram, and that formerly possessed by Mararow<sup>(4)</sup> near Cadapanattam<sup>(5)</sup> shall be disposed of as the Subah shall think proper, and the peshcush to be paid for them shall be settled by him.

“8th. The country of Dindegul shall be restored and ceded

(1) *Choute*, tribute levied by the Marathas of one-fourth of the revenue; from Mar. *chauth*, a fourth part.

(2) *Peshcush*, tribute; from Pers. *pesh-kashîn*, to place before (a person), to offer.

(3) *Onor*, Honāvar, a port on the Malabar coast.

(4) Mo-āri Rao, a Maratha freebooter, Chief of Gooty, served as a mercenary in 1750-54, sometimes with, but generally against the British. He declared himself independent, but was compelled to submit to the Peshwa.

(5) Kadapanattam, 60 miles west of Vellore.

in perpetuity to the Nabob of the Carnatick as a dependance on Trichinapoly, and all the countrys on the east of the hills, such as Ahture, Chilnaick, Gegadevy, Vaniambady, &c., and all the passes near them, shall be put into the said Nabob's hands and ever hereafter be deemed a part of the Carnatick Payen Gatte,<sup>(1)</sup> in consideration of his having paid part of the seapoys with the English troops on this expedition.

"9th. That part of the country taken by Hydre Ally Cawn from the Cudapah Nabob shall be restored to him, and the pesheush of that country fixed on reasonable terms, provided he assists with all his troops on the expedition.

"10th. A provision of some country, either what he at present holds, or elsewhere to a larger amount, shall be made for Mararow in consideration of his services, if he assists against Hydre Ally.

"11th. Bazalet Jing and the Nabob of Canoul shall acknowledge the Subah's sovereignty over the countrys they now hold, shall always be obedient to him, and pay annually such a sum for pesheush as the Subah shall agree to.

"12th. In consideration that Mahadarow faithfully agrees to all the above articles, and assists the Subah to establish his authority over the above countries, he shall be paid at the end of the expedition the sum of—lacks of rupees, and shall receive annually from that time as a lawful choute one fourth part of all the pesheush the Subah receives from the countries south of the Kistnah."

[10 pp., 4to.]

[No. 20]

[COLONEL] JOHN CALL to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1767, March 21st. Madrass. "My dear Sir, By the *Anson* I have sent you, on your own account and risque, with some diamonds of my own and Gocull's<sup>(2)</sup> 2,000 Pags. worth, the produce of which will be paid you by Mr. Cotsford,<sup>(3)</sup> and you will also receive herewith a bill at 8s. 9d. the pagoda for 1,800£, being an equivalent for Pags.4,114 9f. 65c. more, which you run the risque of home; so that your whole risque on the *Anson* is Pags.6,114 9f. 65c., and would have been about 8,000 Pags. but that I was obliged to spare some to Mr. Morse in return for some he gave you on the *Camden*. If any more diamonds come in before the *Pigot* sails, which I imagine will be in fifteen days at farthest, I shall endeavor to send some on your account, or to get bills.

"The remains of your money advanced to Gocull for diamonds is Pags.7,885 32f. 15c., which you may be assured I will get in diamonds or bills as soon as possible, or make him

(1) *Payen Gatte*, the territory below the Eastern Ghauts; from Pers. *pa'in*, below, and Hind. *ghat*, a range of hills.

(2) Gokal Tarvadi, diamond merchant.

(3) William Cotsford.

pay the interest between the dispatch of the *Pigot* and the October ship.

"The Marattas, it seems, have taken Sera, Meddighery, formerly belonging to Morarow, and Rani-beddalure, where the Queen of Biddanore was confined, and are now advancing to Syringapatam. I only wish they may continue their measures, and that we may not quarrell by and bye with them to take out of their hands what they thus lay hold of before we and the Subah join them.

"Lewin Smith hath got Soucar<sup>(1)</sup> bills from Sittaramrauze for his third kist of last year amounting to  $1\frac{2}{3}$  lack of rupees, but he still writes that he is apprehensive he shall not prevail on the Rajah to pay two lacks of pagodas for the next year without assisting him with troops, which we are utterly against and hope to avoid.

"Mr. Law<sup>(2)</sup> some time ago returned to Pondichery, and the moment he landed put Mr. Bayellan and all or most of the Council under an arrest for their very refractory conduct during his absence. He brought Nicolas and other Councillors back with him to occupy their places, and it is said he is determined to send them all home on a ship now ready to be dispatched from Pondichery. We hear they have at present no money to advance for an Investment. I can recollect nothing more to add but to repeat my assurances of being, my dear friend, your very obliged and affectionate

"JOHN CALL."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

[*Enclosure.*]

GOCULL TARWADDY to MESSRS. JOHN CALL<sup>(3)</sup> AND WILLIAM COTSFORD, General Post Office, London.

"*Exchange for £s1800 at 8s. 9d. and 30 days.*

1767, March 21st, Madrass. "Gentlemen, Thirty days after sight of this my second bill of exchange (my first and third of the same tenor and date not being paid) and upon the safe delivery to you of two bulses of diamonds sealed with my seal and marked No. 17 and 19, value as per invoice sent you Pags.19,204 23f. 50ca. please to pay to Robert Palk, Esq., or his order, at whose risque so much of the said bulses of diamonds is to be conveyed to you, the sum of eighteen hundred pounds sterling out of the produce of the said bulses of diamonds. But in case of the loss of the said bulses or any part thereof, you are then only to pay to the said Robert Palk, Esq., or his order, at the rate of 8s. 9d. for every pagoda's worth of diamonds of my concern delivered to you according to the price in the invoice, and you

(1) *Soucar*, a native banker.

(2) Jean Law, Chief of Cossimbazar and brother of Jacques Law who surrendered at Srirangam, returned to France in 1762. He was subsequently appointed Governor of Pondicherry.

(3) Father of Colonel John Call.



will place the whole of this transaction to the account of,  
Gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

“GOCULL TARWADDY.”

[Autograph,  $\frac{1}{2}$  p., demy.]

[No. 21.]

CH[ARLE]S BOURCHIER to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.]

[Endorsed in Palk's hand] “Governor Bouchier.”

1767. March 22nd, Fort St. George. “My dear Friend, I am almost too late to send you even a line by this ship, the *Anson*, though she has been detained much longer than I expected by a lucky discovery of some torn and darned cloth in some Vizagapatam bales overset in the surff, which led us to an examination of some others, and to our astonishment above a 6th part of their whole Investment has been found in that condition, which is above 130 bales. We thought it therefore most prudent to land near 300 bales that had been shipped on board, and they being in the same state with the rest, it is well we did so, or we might have incurred severe resentment from home. I think they will not disapprove this proceeding, though it has occasioned the ship's detention, as such a quantity of torn cloth must have prejudiced the sale of the rest, and the freight on it would have come to as much or more than the demorage incurred by the delay.

“I have had scarce a leisure hour since you went, so much has the ceremonials on my coming to the Government, the correspondence with officers on command, frequent visits to and from the Nabob, who is still here, and much other business engrossed my time and attention. You must forgive me therefore if I do not give you a detail of our political affairs since your departure. This I am the less anxious about, as Call tells me he has wrote you fully on the subject. It is one I must own I am not fond of, but our engagements with the Soubah have led us into such a scene [? skein] that it will require more of my attention than any other part of the Administration. His Excellency<sup>(1)</sup> can't avoid still shewing his enmity to the Soubah, but as I have already found that being a little austere sometimes, and insisting on his compliance with what is right, has a proper effect in keeping him within bounds, I hope to prevent his being so ridiculous as to let his idle conduct be known so as to reach the Souba's ears. I have indeed, my dear friend, a heavy burthen to support for some time. I have, however, the pleasure to tell you my friend Call is kind enough to assist me very essentially, and I hope, if I enjoy my health as well as I do at present, I shall rubb through it tolerably well and see you at furthest in the year 1770.

“At the Nabob's desire I have sent you a letter from him

(1) Nawab Walajah.

inclosed. He imagines Mr. Van Sittart can explain it, and therefore would not have it wrote in English.

"I send you one also for Mrs. Palk from Miss Stonhouse.<sup>(1)</sup> I believe it is on a subject that you little imagine, and that it will therefore surprize you both. I confess to you I wish she had never made her appearance in this Settlement, for she gave me much uneasiness before you went on account of my brother's<sup>(2)</sup> attachment, and this has been much increased by George Van Sittart's paying his addresses to her, which he did within a week after you was gone. After he had in a manner engaged her consent, which, however, I must say she told him she would not give without I approved it, he came to talk with me about it. I candidly made him acquainted with my objections, indeed as freely as I did my brother, and assured him, as I was persuaded it would give you and Mrs. Palk uneasiness, I never could concur in it. He endeavored all he could to induce me to determine otherwise; but as you and Mrs. Palk seemed averse to my brother's being so attached, I could not imagine otherwise than that you will be much more affected at George's desire to be so intimately connected with her.<sup>(3)</sup> I therefore persisted in assuring him I could not alter my resolution, which he took in very good part, as he said he perceived it proceeded from the affection I bore you and Mrs. Palk. In what manner he represented it to the young lady I can't say, but she has never even hinted to me a word of what had passed between her and George. Since he left us I have heard that they are so farr engaged that, if he is not ordered home for his behavior to Lord Clive, which he suspects may happen, he is under a promise of marrying her. I have taken an opportunity of letting her know that I imagined such a step would not be looked upon by you and Mrs. Palk as a handsome return for your kindness to her here. This has in some measure embarrassed her, but still I find she thinks her honor is too farr engaged with George to retract with credit to herself; that is, according to my idea of the matter, that she would not willingly have you and Mrs. Palk displeased, but finds it too good a match to be relinquished; and if you are so, she can't help it. I may be too severe in my sentiments of her possibly, and I shall be sorry if I am so, but I can't divest myself of the opinion I once told you I had of her, that she is mistress of too much art for so young a woman, and in many circumstances relating to her conduct I am confirmed in it, as are many other people here. I shall leave no endeavors untried to prevent their coming together that I can decently pursue, persuading myself that you and Mrs. Palk will be pleased if I succeed. Poor Jim cannot divest himself

(1) Miss Sarah Stonhouse, daughter of the Rev. Sir James Stonhouse, 7th Bart., a physician who afterwards took holy orders, became the wife of George Vansittart. She and her husband were remote cousins, his mother having been Martha Stonhouse, daughter of Sir John Stonhouse, 3rd Bart.

(2) James Bouchier.

(3) Mrs. Palk was Vansittart's sister.

of the prejudices he had in her favor long before you went away, although he yielded to my persuasions and yours to decline all thoughts of her for a wife ; indeed he has been more affected since George became her admirer than before, arising both from his affection for you and Mrs. Palk, and his regard for the young lady, and what will be the end of it I don't know. I wish he may not run away with her from George, and yet he is so different from what he used to be that I had rather see him married to her than that he should continue under so great an anxiety of mind as he now does. At the same time I shall be extremely sorry if she is ever married to George, for I much doubt from the short acquaintance they have had together if they have really much affection for each other, and she seems to be ill calculated to make a discrete wife for so careless a chap as George is. In short, my dear friend, the whole affair has perplexed and vexed me to a very great degree, and I am not likely to be relieved from this situation for some time. I sincerely wish you and Mrs. Palk may suffer much less about her than I have done. I have desired Mrs. B. will send me no more female recommendations, and I must entreat the same favor of you and Mrs. Palk.

"Of the two pipes of madeira you left here to be sent home, Capt. Lennox has taken one, as will Richardson the other. Lennox's receipt is inclosed, and as he is a very obliging, good kind of man, I cannot avoid, as it is [his] particular request, recommending him to your kind offices if it should at any time lay in your power to assist him in getting a good voyage.

"As you was so kind to give me leave, I have desired Mrs. B. and Cotsford to consult you in the disposal of some money I remitted home by the *Camden* and now do by the *Anson*, and I shall be obliged to you to favor them with your advice on the occasion. There are great complaints of the bad quality of the diamonds now sent, which makes many people apprehensive they will sell very ill. In this you are interested as well as myself. If they should do so, how are we to get home any more of our money at a better exchange than 7s. 8d.? Pray favor me with your sentiments about this matter.

"My being obliged to neglect Mrs. Palk by this conveyance concerns me much, but you are so powerful and [?]an advocate that I doubt not you will readily prevail on her to forgive me. Let me beg you will assure her that, although I make but an awkward figure in her place at the head of the table, a remembrance of her civilities is too strongly imprinted in my mind for me ever to think otherwise than that I am under the greatest obligations to her, and my best wishes always attend her. Be assured, my dear friend, I have as deep a sense of gratitude for your innumerable favors conferred upon me, and can never cease to acknowledge myself your most sincerely obliged and affectionate

"CH<sup>s</sup>. BOURCHIER."

[P.S.] "The *Pigot* will sail in about ten days or a fortnight."  
[Holograph, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]



[No. 22.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to [ROBERT] PALK, [Esq.]

1767, March 22nd, Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, I embrace the very first opportunity, my dear Mr. Palk, of returning you my unfeigned thanks for the favors you heaped on me during your stay in India. There is not, I assure you, a day passes but they occur to me, nor do I ever reflect on them without earnestly wishing you will give me some opportunity of shewing the grateful sense I must ever retain of them.

“Nothing material has occurred in the Company’s affairs since your departure, and the operations going forward will be so much better related by your other correspondents that I shall avoid troubling you with anything on the subject.

“I have received a bond from the Nabob for the thousand pagodas he promised to Withecombe’s<sup>(1)</sup> father. It becomes due the 1st February, 1768, and bears interest at 10 per cent. As you left me no instructions concerning it, I know not whether you would chuse the whole to be remitted when it becomes due, or whether the bond is to be renewed and the interest only sent home annually. I beg you will write me on this subject. I shall remit the first year’s interest without waiting your reply.

“There is one circumstance, my dear Sir, on which I must beg your advice. I remember you once mentioned to me that the reduction of the Nabob’s interest would be a considerable drawback to my mother’s income. It struck me so much that I could not make an ingenuous reply, for you must know that I have never allowed her more than 8 per cent, and my reasons were these :—When my mother offered me this money, it was with a view of being of service to me as well as herself, and she repeatedly wrote me that she should be well satisfied with 8 per cent. When I put it into the Nabob’s hands I concluded the risk to be mine, and therefore never wrote her that it was there. I declare solemnly that, had the Nabob failed, I should have thought myself accountable for the money (as indeed I do to this moment), and I so far concluded the interest to be mine that I remember to have once wrote her that I cleared 12 per cent. by the money. I beg, my dear my [?Mr.] Palk, you will favor me with your opinion on this matter. If you think the 20 per cent. should go to my mother, I will cheerfully pay it, for I shall be then convinced that I have acted wrong, though without any intention of doing so. It will, I confess, be some disappointment to me, but I would pay fifty times the sum rather that it should be imagined I could entertain a thought of keeping to myself what is the right of another.

“The dispatch, which we thought would be nothing, has

(1) This Withecombe, who had probably been in the Nawab’s service, may have been a connection of Robert Palk, whose brother Walter married into the family of Widdicombe (or Withecombe). Robert Palk, jun., left a legacy to one Thomas Withecombe. Cf. No. 414.

proved very heavy, and fagged me confoundedly. It is in a good cause, and I shall probably continue writing in the same post these ten years. . . .

"I flatter myself this will find you happy to the utmost of your wishes, rewarded with ease and tranquility after a scene of care and trouble. You know not, my dear Mr. Palk, how well I wish you. I beg you will present my respectful compliments to Mrs. Palk, and believe me with real esteem and regard your infinitely obliged and obedient humble servant,

"W. M. GOODLAD."

[*Holograph*, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 23.]

GEORGE VANSITTART to MRS. [ANNE] PALK.

1767, April 3rd, Midnapore.—"My dear Mrs. Palk,—Here I am, safely moored for I hope four or five years, and perfectly well pleased with my new abode. I wrote to Palk the middle of last month by the *Nottingham*. If the *Mercury*, which is now just ready to sail, should chance to arrive first in England, pray acquaint him that I believe I should be saved the trouble of a trip home even if the Court of Directors, through their great impartiality and clemency, were to rout me out of the service by their answers to the *Grenville*. I have been assured by some members of the Select [Committee] that I should be maintained in my station till their further pleasure could be known.

"My present place of residence is very different from the greatest part of Bengal. Instead of being a low, rich soil, it is a high spot, very hard and rocky, and looks as if nature had intended a hill but miscarried; and at this season of the year land winds prevail similar to those which you used to be so fond of at Madras.

"Three days ago I wrote to Harry,<sup>(1)</sup> but I forgot to inform him of a piece of news: so I must employ you to communicate it to him—an office which, as you are so well versed in the revolutions of Hindostan, you will doubtless have pleasure in executing. The Abdallee<sup>(2)</sup> having thrashed the Sies<sup>(3)</sup> and obliged them to pay him a large sum of money, is advanced to within a few cose<sup>(4)</sup> of Delly at the head of 100,000 horse. He has written to the chiefs of the empire to attend him with money and troops, and it is said to be his intention to seat himself on the throne of Hindostan. So our old friend Shah Aulum<sup>(5)</sup> is like to lose his kingdom. Yours most affectionately,

"GEORGE VANSITTART."

[*Holograph*, 3 pp., 4to.]

(1) Henry Vansittart.

(2) Ahmad Shah Abdālī, otherwise called Ahmad Shah Durāni, approached Delhi with an army in March, 1767, but retreated in the following month.

(3) The Sikhs.

(4) *Cose*, *coss*, a variable measure of distance, generally about two miles.

(5) Shah Alam, the titular emperor.

CHOCAPAH to the Honourable ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1767, April 3rd, Fort St. George.—“Honourable Sir, I had the honour to write a few lines under the date of the 3rd of last month per ship *Anson*. . . Last Monday the Governour and Council was pleased to settle the present year’s contract for the Honourable Company’s Investment the same as last year, but only took the long cloth medlin<sup>(1)</sup> from Dessoo Reddy and gave to Mootamary Chitty. Dessoo Reddy and Moota Chitty have not behaved well in their duty of bringing their cloth agreeable to their contract. . . The Governour and Council was pleased to tell me in consultation that I have behaved very well, and they are willing to give me some more articles, but there is none at present, and therefore I must be contented with the Salempores<sup>(2)</sup> fine, the same as last year.

“We have not yet received any further news from Manilah, which we expect every day. The Nabob still remains in the Company’s Garden, and it seems that he will go to Trichnaply in a day or two. . . .

“CHOCAPAH.”

[*Autograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[COLONEL] JOHN CALL to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.]

1767, April 6th, Madrass.—“My dear Sir, By this ship you will receive a duplicate of what I wrote you by the *Anson*. I believe I shall not be able to get any more diamonds to send you till next October. If any should come they will be sent partly on your account to Mr. Cotsford and my father as before.

“All the detachments of our troops having been very near the Subah the 25th ultimo, Colonel Smith waited on the Duan<sup>(3)</sup> and acquainted him that he was very uneasy at the Subah’s dilatory manner of proceeding, and the reports which were spread of his intention to return very soon to the Decan and to make up matters with Hydre Ally. He therefore desired to be informed without evasion what were the Subah’s real intentions, that he might judge how far it was consistent with his orders to conform thereto. After many excuses the Duan declared that the Marattas having deceived the Subah and already plundered all the country of what was to be got, and the season of the year being far advanced towards the period of repassing the Kistnah, the Subah for these reasons was resolved to accept Hydre Ally’s offer of money if he would pay 50 lacks of rupees, and proposed to defer the prosecution of the expedition till next year, when he should set out much earlier.

(1) Middling, of medium texture.

(2) *Salempores*, a variety of cotton cloth, made chiefly in South Arcot.

(3) *Duan*, *diwān*, the Nizam’s minister.



“ This was an event we most apprehended would ruin all our project, and you may imagine Colonel Jo<sup>(1)</sup> was very much chagrined. He urged a thousand arguments to induce the Subah to persevere, and above all assured him that there never was a finer body of troops sent out of the Carnatick than we had sent out on this occasion, and that perhaps it might not be in our power to assist him so effectually another time. Both the Duan and Subah seemed deaf to all that could be urged, and only replied that the Marrattus had always deceived them, and that in future they would entirely be guided by our advice, being persuaded of our real inclination to support the Subah’s authority. Thus matters stand with Jo and the Subah ; but we do not yet give up the point, and James Bourchier with Stracey<sup>(2)</sup> sets out to morrow to try whether he can be more successful in the persuasive strain, or else to insist on the Company’s possessions and the Carnatick being included in any arrangement that may be made with Hydre Ally.

“ About the same time we received Jo’s letter a Vakeel arrived from Mahadarow, acquainting us of his master’s success in taking Sirpi and all the country north of Bengalure, asking Choute for the Carnatick, and expressing a surprise that we should have joined the Subah with such a powerful body of troops without acquainting his master. To the first part we replied that we were very glad to hear of his master’s success ; to the second, that we never should consent to pay any Choute for the Carnatick after the King<sup>(3)</sup> and the Subah had confirmed it as an *Ultungan*<sup>(4)</sup> or free gift to Serajah Doulah,<sup>(5)</sup> and after we had fought so much to maintain it in its present state : he would therefore do well to touch no more on that subject. To the third we observed that the Subah had assured us of a solid and firm agreement made between him and the Marattas to attack Hydre Ally, and that we had readily joined him in consequence, and even acquainted Mahadarow of our intentions, though he affected to be surprised at it. The Vakeel then complained of the Subah’s dilatoriness, and said that his master, finding the Subah was resolved to make up matters and return, had been necessitated to adopt the same plan, though much against his inclination.

“ We told the Vakeel that we had still hopes of engaging the Subah to persevere, and therefore desired he would write his master to defer the intended accommodation and wait till our army came up. To this he observed that his master could not depend on the Subah, but was apprehensive that with our

(1) Joseph Smith.

(2) Edward Stracey, a Madras civil servant of 1758, was Persian Translator in 1769, when he accompanied Du Pré to St. Thomas’s Mount to settle terms of peace with Haidar.

(3) The Mogul.

(4) *Ultungan*, from Turk. and Hind. *altangah*, red seal, i.e., a royal grant under red seal.

(5) *Sirāj-ud-daula*, one of the titles of Nawab Walajah. Cf. No. 36, p. 58.

assistance he intended to quarrell with the Marattas. If we would engage to join Mahadarow and act with him, he would readily stay and prosecute the expedition to the utmost we could wish, without retaining any countries in his hands. After much other discourse it appeared clearly that Mahadarow was very suspicious of the Subah's designs, and would not wait till he came near him, but that he would be very glad to have our friendship, and act, as the Vakeel expressed it, under our orders. There is no saying what quantity of truth there is in all these declarations, but that we may lose no opportunity of coming at the designs of the Marattas, I am to set out privately to-morrow under pretence of visiting and providing for the defence of the passes, and when arrived at Cadapanattum or Palameleru,<sup>(1)</sup> Mahadarow himself, as the Vakeel says, but I suppose some person deputed by him, is to come thither and communicate to me the Marattas' real intentions, and if anything can be effected to gain our point against Hydre Ally, I hope to accomplish it without interfering with the grand plan laid down by Lord Clive.

"If both the Marattas and Subah (with whom we are determined not to break, and risque the tranquility of the Circars) are resolved to go back next month, we shall then so far change our project as to endeavor to bring about a peace between the Subah and Hydre Ally exclusive of the Marattas; to confine him to the ancient Mysore dominions, settle the future Peiscash, and engage him to assist us against the Marattas if there should be occasion hereafter.

"Mr. Bouchier seems a good deal affected with this disappointment of his hopes, and many of the members of the senate cry out, 'I said it would come to this, and a pretty figure we cut truly.' For my part I think very differently, and see nothing more in it than this:—The Subah by treaty is entitled to our assistance; he asked it, and we gave it to him. He told us he should attack Hydre Ally, and we rejoiced because it coincided with our interest. We even went farther and sent a powerful body of troops, hoping by that step to engage the Subah to root out Hydre Ally entirely; but he never promised us any such thing, and perhaps never intended to do more than draw a sum. If then we are disappointed, we have nothing to blame but our own sanguine hopes, which flattered us that everything would go on as we would have it. Another time we must endeavor to know what we are going about before we set out; and at present comfort ourselves that we have faithfully adhered to our engagements and have 7 lacks of the Subah's to make good the expence, besides 10 lacks of rupees left clear to the company out of the Circar revenue, Lewin<sup>(2)</sup> having at length let the Chicacole country to Sittaram and Ragorauze for 8 lacks of rupees clear of charges.

(1) The Pass of Palmaner in the Eastern Ghauts is 10 miles N.E. of the Pass of Kadapanattam, which is itself 50 miles due W. of Vellore.

(2) John Lewin Smith, Chief at Masulipatam.

"We are forming a party of observation at Vellore, and I propose to reconnoitre Gegadevy<sup>(1)</sup> and Vaireambady,<sup>(2)</sup> so that if a good opportunity offers, I have leave to attempt to gain possession of these places.

"The Nabob goes away in three days to Arcott. His money begins to come in from the 1st instant to pay his private creditors, and I hope he will not fail in his engagements. He is still as jealous as ever of Nizam Ally, and at variance with all his own family.

"My respects to Mrs. Palk. I have not time to say more than that I am, my dear friend, your most obliged and affectionate

"JOHN CALL."

[P.S.] "Pray show this to General Caillaud ; I have not time to write to him."

[*Holograph*, 8 pp., 4to.]

[No. 26.]

GEORGE PURNELL<sup>(3)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1767, April 7th, Fort St. George.—"Sir, I take the liberty to trouble you with enclosed duplicate of my last respects to you of the 22nd of last month, and now beg leave to . . . repeat my most earnest request that you will interest yourself and influence your friends on my behalf. I present my humble respects to Mrs. Palk.

"GEORGE PURNELL."

"P.S.—Sir, Since writing the above I have transcribed sundry letters from Mr. Morse, dated the 2nd instant, to his correspondents in England, wherein he acquaints them of his design to withdraw from business after the dispatch of the ship in March, 1769. It is therefore most humbly submitted to you, Sir, whether, for divers reasons too obvious to need repeating, it be not the more necessary to make immediate application to your friends in my behalf, lest any delays might be prejudicial to my interest. I flatter my self, Sir, that you will be so good [as] to excuse this sollicitude in me.

"G. PURNELL."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., demy.]

[No. 27.]

ROB[ER]T PALK [jun.] to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., London.

1767, April 7th, Fort William.—"Dear Sir, I deferred writing to you by Captain Howe as I was in the hope of having something satisfactory to write you regarding myself. When I left Madras I thought I should not meet with any difficulty in getting

(1) Jegadevi Pass, through which flows the Pālār River, is 60 miles S.W. of Vellore.

(2) Vaniambadi, on the Pālār River, where there was a fort, is 35 miles W.S.W. of Vellore.

(3) George Purnell was a free merchant of Madras.



appointed George's<sup>(1)</sup> assistant to Midnapore in case nothing better offered. On my arrival here I found that vacancy had been filled up by one three years younger in the service than myself. I was told on my arrival that gentleman should be removed if possible to make room for me, but now I am told it can't be done. I have been assured by persons to whom you have recommended me that I shall be provided for the first opportunity; so that I can give you no better account of myself than that I am living in Calcutta at a great expence without anything coming in.

"When I arrived here I found the money you lent me laying dead in your attorney's hands, notwithstanding the particular request of George that it should be employed to the best advantage. I am now employing it to the best advantage, but I fear I am rather too late to expect much from it this season.

"Mr. Kelsall<sup>(2)</sup> is appointed Chief of Dacca in the room of Mr. Cartier,<sup>(3)</sup> who resides in the Presidency as Second [in Council.]

"Two of our brigades are marched towards Illiabad on a report of the Abdallah's<sup>(4)</sup> coming down from Delly against us by the particular desire of Shuja Dowla,<sup>(5)</sup> as it is asserted, who in all probability will join them against us.

"I will (for many reasons) defer writing any thing of the state of affairs here in this Settlement, &c. You will hear from other hands how matters go on. I hope you will not forget to send me Chambers's Gardenner's Dictionary.

"Mrs. Plowman<sup>(6)</sup> has been delivered of a child, and is so ill that the doctors think she will not get over it. I desire my compliments to Mrs. Palk, and am with great respect, dear Sir, your most obliged and obedient servant,

"ROBT. PALK."

"P.S.—I wrote to you and Mrs. Palk, before I left Madras, by the *Anson*."

"12th April, Mrs. Plowman is no more."

[*Holograph, 2¼ pp., 4to. Wax seal bearing the Palk arms.*]

#### [No. 28.]

JA[ME]S JOHNSON<sup>(7)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.]

1767, April 11th, Fort St. George.—"Sir, You kindly promised to use your influence in my behalf with the Court of Directors for my admission into their service, and though I have little

(1) George Vansittart.

(2) Thomas Kelsall, a Madras civil servant of 1755, was transferred to Bengal in 1766. In 1767 he was 9th member of Council.

(3) John Cartier succeeded Verelst as Governor of Bengal in 1769.

(4) Ahmad Shah Abdālī.

(5) Shuja-ud-daula, Nawab Vizier of Oudh.

(6) Wife of Henry Plowman, George Vansittart's partner in private business.

(7) James Johnson, a free merchant from 1764, was associated with W. M. Goodlad, the Civil Department Secretary, in private business. He was afterwards employed by the Nawab.

pretence to such an act of friendship from you, the encouragement you ever gave me induces me to solicit your good offices.

"The Nabob's debt is at last settled. The amount of the new bonds is Porto Novo Pags. 55,800 and Star 22,29,650. Payments of the revenues began the first instant, and 29,000 pags. and a bill for a lack and ten thousand rupees are already received. 'Tis imagined when the Tanjour tribute of 4 lacs of rupees are received there will be money sufficient to make a general dividend of 10 per cent. Mr. Ross,<sup>(1)</sup> who you know is busy in all affairs but his own, has endeavoured, contrary to the general voice of the creditors, to obstruct the proceedings of the trustees and alter their plans. His remonstrances were too unreasonable to merit even an answer.

"Some bales of Vizac[apatam] cloth were in landing accidentally damaged. Being opened, it was discovered that a very considerable part was torn. All the bales being examined were found in the same condition. John Davidson,<sup>(2)</sup> the Warehousekeeper, we fear will bear the whole censure at home. His letter on the subject, far from vindicating him, acquaints the Council with more truth than prudence that inexperience makes him unfit for that employ.

"I must not forget to thank you for your promise to Goodlad of recommending us to the Coral consigners. I think it a valuable branch of business if early entered into, and it cannot be very desirable to persons high in the service, as you have already experienced.<sup>(3)</sup>

"I desire you will present my compliments to Mrs. Palk. . .  
"JAS. JOHNSON."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 29.]

J[OHN] M[AXWELL] STONE<sup>(4)</sup> to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esq.

1767, April 15th, Fort St. George.—"Dear Sir, I could not avoid by this conveyance enquiring after your's, Mrs. Palk's and your family's health, particularly as it gives me at the same time an opportunity of expressing the sense I have of the many obligations I am under to you . . .

"With regard to publick affairs, I make no doubt but you will have a full account of them from Mr. Bouchier and Mr. Call. I shall, however, do myself the pleasure of acquainting you with the most material occurrences since you left us.

(1) Andrew Ross arrived as a free merchant in 1752. He took a prominent part in civic affairs, and ultimately died at Madras after a continuous residence of 45 years.

(2) John Davidson, a civil servant of 1753.

(3) Coral was originally imported from Europe by licensed merchants under a bond that the sale proceeds should be devoted to the purchase of diamonds. From 1761 the Governor of Madras was permitted to receive a consular or commission on the coral so imported. The privilege was relinquished in 1800.

(4) John Maxwell Stone, a civil servant of 1755, was Secretary in the Military and Political Department. He entered Council in 1774 and afterwards supported Lord Pigot's party. He married Mary Seale in 1757.

“ The detachments from Vellour and the Circars, on account of the many unforeseen difficulties they met with from the badness of the roads, could not, by the last advices, have joined the Soubah before the 10th instant. Mr. James Bouchier set off from hence a few days ago for the Soubah’s Court to assist Colonel Smith in endeavouring to prevail on him to persevere in the expedition, as he has already given proofs of his backwardness under pretence that it cannot be finished in time to return before the rising of the Kistna. He had only advanced as far as Raydrugure [?]<sup>(1)</sup> on the northern confines of Hyder Ally’s country, and it is much to be feared a small sum of money will induce him to march back without even attempting any thing to Hyder Ally’s prejudice. Maudharow, on the other hand, has been very active, having already over-run great part of the Biddenore country, taken Shirpi and several other places, and was marching towards Bengalore. He has had large offers from Hyder Ally, who remains at Syringapatnam, to withdraw, but what his intentions are we know not. The different conduct of Nizam Ally and the Morattas was a convincing proof that they had not agreed on any settled plan of operations, and indeed Ruccun Ud Dowla<sup>(2)</sup> at last acknowledged as much to Colonel Smith. It was therefore a part of Mr. Bouchier’s and Colonel Smith’s instructions to bring them if possible to some certain determination with regard to their proceedings, as well as concerning the disposal of the countries that may be conquered from Hyder Ally, regarding which such proposals were laid down as were thought would be agreeable to both parties. After all, it is much to be apprehended that Hyder Ally will escape for this time on paying a sum of money, as the Soubah’s poverty, with the rapaciousness of his ministers, will probably, in spite of every argument that can be urged, induce him to make up matters and return. Lest this should be the case, a detachment of 200 infantry, four guns and a battalion of sepoys is ordered to be posted near the passes to oppose Hyder Ally, who will, if he has leisure, most probably attempt to disturb the Carnatic. Or, if the expedition goes on, and Hyder Ally should be obliged to withdraw his troops from any of the posts near the passes, we may get possession of such as it may be of importance to secure.

“ This is the present state of affairs. A few days more will, it is hoped, determine the fate of the expedition. The general observation is how necessary it was that the Soubah and the Morattas should have been brought to some fixed and settled plan before General Caillaud left Hyderabad,<sup>(3)</sup> as Maudharow has not been within 200 miles of the Soubah since Colonel [Smith] joined him, and the Soubah seems so much incensed at the Morattas having got the start of him, that it will probably

(1) Probably Rāyadrug, a hill-fort close to the Mysore frontier.

(2) Rukn-ud-daula, Minister and Commander-in-Chief to Nizam Ali.

(3) In 1766.



be difficult to bring them to act with that unanimity so necessary for insuring success.

“The Circars of Ellore, Rajahmundry and Mustaphanagur are entirely settled in peace, and all the Zemindars have been brought to acknowledge the Company’s authority. The Chicacole Circar is lett for eight lacks of rupees for the present year. Sitteramrauze has only taken the district of Vizianagram ; the other part of the Circar is lett to one Ragorauze.

“Mrs. Stone continues in but an indifferent state of health. She joins in the sincerest wishes for your’s, Mrs. Palk’s and your family’s health and happiness, and in best respects to General Lawrence, with him who is, with the greatest gratitude and esteem, dear Sir, your most obliged and obedient humble servant,

“J. M. STONE.”

“P.S. I need not say how happy I should be in receiving a line from you. My little girl is very well, but I cannot prevail on Mrs. Stone to let me accept of your exceeding kind offer.”

[*Holograph, 4 pp., flsep.*]

[No. 30.]

JOHN PYBUS<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1767, April 15th, Mount.<sup>(2)</sup>—“My dear Friend, Having finished all my publick business for this ship, I am come out here to spend a few days with my good woman and her boy before she takes leave of this delightful retirement, which must now be soon, for the weather begins to be *uncomfortably* warm.

I had hopes of His Honor’s<sup>(3)</sup> company to celebrate with a few more friends my dear little Patt’s birthday, but he has yet many letters to write to England, which will detain him in town, where he suffers from the *longshore* winds<sup>(4)</sup> and wishes for an opportunity of getting relief from this purer air. His Excellency the Nabob, with much seeming reluctance, left us the day before yesterday for Arcot, where he proposes making a short stay and then proceed[ing] to Tritchanopoly. Money comes in but slowly from him for discharging his private debts, and you may suppose his creditors are consequently clamorous. The vicinity of the Morattoes has given the Nabob some disquiet (though I think he has nothing to fear from them) and the apprehensions of an incursion into this country from those maroders alarm people whose only hopes of recovering their fortunes from the desperate state in which they at present consider them are wholly founded on it’s tranquillity. Call has, I make no doubt, given you a minute detail of all military and political transactions since you left us. He is at present on the look out at Cuddapanatam Pass for a Vakeel from the Moratta

(1) *Vide* No. 13, p. 17, note 1.

(2) St. Thomas’s Mount. *Vide* No. 19, p. 28, note 1.

(3) The Governor, Charles Bouchier.

(4) An enervating S.S.W. wind.

Mahadarow in hopes of diving into his designs. His<sup>(1)</sup> progress in the Mysore country has been very rapid and success astonishing, having taken Sirpi, Medgeri and many other small forts from Hyder Ally without the least opposition. The Queen of Biddanore<sup>(2)</sup> and most of the principal people of distinction belonging to that country were prisoners in Medgeri, and have been set at liberty by Mahadarow. Hyder Ally is in Siringapatam preparing for a vigorous defence should the place be attacked, which will depend on the Subah's resolves. James Bouchier is gone to him<sup>(3)</sup> with a view of leading him on, but Colonel Smith seems to apprehend the influence of Hyder Ally's money will be more powerful than all the arguments which he or James can urge. The Morattoes, we heard some time ago, were about settling for a sum of money, but as they still continue their ravages 'tis plain no treaty can yet have taken place. Todd<sup>(4)</sup> has had a most laborious, tedious and fatiguing march from Vellour towards the Subah. He moved the 23rd February, had not joined Colonel Smith the 5th instant, and judged it would be still six or seven days before he could. Fitzgerald<sup>(5)</sup> with the detachment from the Circars joined Smith the 2nd. Want of provisions has been an universal complaint from all quarters, and as the Morattoes have scoured the whole country through which our troops are to march if they move farther south, and the Subah's army consists of a most numerous rabble, I think this will prove an insuperable obstacle to our operations, unless by moving towards the passes it should be in our power to furnish supplies of grain from this country. The Subah seems unwilling to remain south of the Kistna during the rains, and unless he does, all the past will be labor lost. Hyder Ally writes to us submissively and sues now for the friendship he before rejected. If we can make use of his fears to get possession of the forts which command the passes leading into this country, and to secure such privileges for the Company on the Malabar Coast as the gentlemen there have solicited, 'tis all we must flatter ourselves with hopes of from the expedition, and more, I fear, than we shall be able to accomplish. You know it never was a plan that I could think well of, but my best wishes for it's success have kept equal pace with those who were the most sanguine for it.

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(1) Madhu Rao.

(2) Bednur, a town and district in the north-west part of Mysore. The last Raja dying in 1755, left an heir, Chen Busvaiya, under the guardianship of his widow. The Rani compassed the death of the heir, and in 1763 Haidar attacked Bednur, ostensibly to avenge the murder. The Rani capitulated and was imprisoned, and for some time Haidar contemplated making Bednur his capital under the name of Haidarnagar.

(3) The Subah, Nizam Ali.

(4) Charles Tod was, as Captain, Commandant of Sepoys during the siege of Madras of 1758-59, and subsequently Town Major of Fort St. George. In 1767, as Lieut-Colonel, he was placed in control of the whole of the native infantry. He served in the first Mysore war.

(5) Major Thomas FitzGerald. *Vide* No. 144.

"Donald Campbell<sup>(1)</sup> is gone with a detachment from the garrisons of Vellour and Trichanopoly to settle the southern countries, and Major Bonjour<sup>(2)</sup> is out with a party to prevent if possible any incursions from the Morattoes through the passes.

"Smith<sup>(3)</sup> has settled with Sittaramrauze for the Cicacole country at eight lacks, and soucar security has been given for the third kist of last year. Nothing *more* from the northward since you left us.

"A sad discovery has been made of negligence in embalming the Vizagapatam Investment, and I fear that part which went by the *Lord Cambden* was in no better condition. We have exculpated poor old Smith,<sup>(4)</sup> and Davidson<sup>(5)</sup> is ordered up. Humanity has saved him from dismissal, which he well deserved.

"Madge<sup>(6)</sup> wrote to me to endeavour to get home for him a chest of table china intended as a present for Colonel Monson,<sup>(7)</sup> which he said you would clear from the India House. Capt. Lennox of the *Anson* was so obliging as to carry it. The mark or any thing else relating to it I am ignorant of, but I suppose Madge has wrote to you about it.

"George Vansittart, you will no doubt have heard from other hands, has made a bold stroke for a wife, but James Bouchier seems still to maintain his influence with the young lady, and 'tis yet a doubt who will be the happy man. I shall leave this subject to be treated on more at large by those who know more of the matter than I pretend to do.

"You will by this time, I suppose, be about leaving the Cape, where I think it likely you would meet Lord Clive if he recovered his health. India affairs would afford you a large field to expatiate on. He, you and Van<sup>(8)</sup> must go hand in hand, and take upon you the whole management of the Company's concerns at home, and then some regular plan and system may be laid down for conducting them abroad, where they begin to require very able heads and honest hearts for supporting with honor and advantage the whole vast superstructure which has been so suddenly and successfully raised. The most rigid rules of *abstinence* are still observed in my family that no

(1) *Ibid* No. 19, p. 26, note 3.

(2) Major Abraham Bonjour. In 1772, as Lieut.-Colonel, he held a command under General Joseph Smith in the Marava expedition, when owing to a miscarriage of orders great slaughter took place among the unresisting enemy at Kaliyarkoil, the capital of the 'Little Marava.' Malignantly attacked in England by Sir Robert Fletcher, Bonjour was completely exonerated by the Madras Government. He left India in 1775 and settled in Switzerland.

(3) John Lewin Smith, Chief at Masulipatam.

(4) John Smith, Chief at Vizagapatam.

(5) John Davidson, *vide* No. 28 p. 16.

(6) Captain Thomas Madge, late lieutenant in H.M.'s 96th Regiment, entered the Company's service in 1764. He commanded a battalion of native infantry in the Northern Circars.

(7) *Ibid* No. 6, p. 12, note 2.

(8) Henry Vansittart.



impediments may prevent the execution of our plan for leaving India in October next; so that, let what will happen, you may be assured of seeing me in England about this time twelvemonth. We are looking out hourly for a ship from Europe, and are told that Du Pré<sup>(1)</sup> may be expected as a successor to Mr. Bouchier. Such an appointment after a service of four and twenty years would hurt me, I confess, because 'twould be *disgracieux* to go home under so disagreeable a circumstance; but so much is my heart set upon being with my young family that no consideration upon earth shall keep me another year in India if my boy is able to undertake the voyage, which I thank God we have at present great encouragement to hope will be the case, as he continues stout and jolly, and is almost weaned already. I shall hope the pleasure of finding a letter from you either at the Cape or St. Helena in my way home, for I shall be anxious to know how poor Mrs. Palk passed the first two or three months of her voyage, which must, I think, have tried her patience, spirits and constitution unless that unhappy woman you carried with you was either soon relieved from her misery or recovered; and I am most heartily vexed to think she should have had so little feeling or consideration for her mistress as not to have accepted the offer made her of being accommodated here. Mrs. Pybus desires most affectionately to be remembered to you, and joins with me in the same to Mrs. Palk. I hope your dear little ones got well over the voyage. Our kind compliments if you please to Harry Van and his family and General Caillaud. . . .

“JOHN PYBUS.”

[*Holograph*, 6 pp., 4to.]

[No. 31]

HENRY BROOKE<sup>(2)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esq., at the East India House, London.

1767, April 16th, Fort St. George, per the *Pigot*, Capt. Richardson.—“Dear Sir, I have the pleasure of acquainting you that a few days after your departure Mr. Bouchier and the rest of the Gentlemen did me the honour of calling me to a seat in Council. Sensible of this, my utmost endeavours shall not be wanting to render myself worthy of it, and I flatter myself that, had you been present, your concurrence would not have been refused, especially after so strict a scrutiny into the Manila disputes had been made, in which I was unhappily concerned. I hope nothing has been determined in your opinion but what will prove my attachment to the Company's interest throughout the whole of that expedition. Had I been

(1) *Vide* No. 19, p. 30, note 1.

(2) Henry Brooke entered the Madras civil service in 1751, and eleven years later joined the expedition of Admiral Cornish and General Draper against Manila. He was admitted to Council in 1767, and in 1776 took an active part in the deposition of Lord Pigot. In consequence he was recalled to England, prosecuted and fined. He married Mary Allbeary in 1761.

deficient in my duty or conscious of any failure in my integrity, I would not dare to entreat your good offices for me in the House when those affairs come before them. The great bulking of those papers will frighten the members from a reading of them: they will of course refer to you, who have had that trouble. Your opinion as chief judge here will undoubtedly carry the greatest weight with them; and as you have already exculpated me from any capital error, I hope for a continuance of your favour. I am the more induced to this as I am given to understand Mr. Bean is sent home on the *Anson* by Mr. Drake<sup>(1)</sup> in the nature of a solicitor, who boasts not a little of his interest at home, the power of Sir George Pocock,<sup>(2)</sup> &c., his relations.

"Since your departure I have ad[d]ed a little daughter to my family, and I have the satisfaction to say that Mrs. B. is perfectly recovered, who joins with me in wishes for your and Mrs. Palk's happiness. . . .

"HENRY BROOKE."

[*Holograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 32]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1767, April 16th, Fort St. George.—"I shall never be able to let a ship go, my dear Mr. Palk, without paying my respects to you, for I must ever be mindful of your favours.

"The copies of letters<sup>(3)</sup> which I promised you have been brought up only to August, 1765. The remainder shall be sent by the October ship. Captain Richardson will deliver you what are done.

"I am much hurried, and therefore unable to write long letters, but beg you will tell Mrs. Palk as a piece of news that the agreeable Mrs. Maitland<sup>(4)</sup> of Cuddalore is engaged to Doctor Buchanan. . . .<sup>(5)</sup>

"W. M. GOODLAD."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

(1) Dawsonne Drake, a Madras civil servant of 1742, was in Council in 1759, and in 1762 was nominated prospective Governor of Manila. He eventually became a free merchant.

(2) Admiral George Pocock served under Admiral Watson at the capture of Gheriah in 1756 and of Calcutta in 1757, and on Watson's death succeeded to the command of the East India Squadron. He fought actions with d'Aché off Cuddalore in 1758 and off Ceylon in 1759. He subsequently commanded in the West Indies and was present at the capture of Havana in 1762.

(3) These copies are probably those now preserved in the British Museum, (*Add. MSS.* 34,688).

(4) Jane de Morgan became in 1761 the wife of Lieut. Richard R. F. Maitland, who died of wounds at the siege of Madura in 1764 (*List of Inscriptions*, J. J. Cotton).

(5) Dr. Duncan Buchanan married Mrs. Jane Maitland in 1767.

[No. 33.]

GEORGE SMITH<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1767, October 30th, Fort St. George. (Received per *Hector*, 22nd April, 1768.)—"Sir, I did myself the pleasure of writing you by the *Glaten*, Capt. Doveton, whom I fell in with in the Straights of Banca last January, and informed you of my fortunate escape from Manila and the treatment I had met with there. The Nabob writes the Company on this subject, and sends them a copy of my memorial and an estimate of the losses arising to him from the iniquitous measures of the Spanish Governor, which amounts to Spanish dollars 144,650, which if paid we shall make a good voyage. I am not so sanguine in my expectations as to hope for this sum, though no more than we have a just claim for, yet I think the justice of the C[atholic] King will order us a restitution of the presents extorted from us and the ship's demurrage during her illegal detention in his port. If the Company views this matter in its proper light, it will appear interesting to them, because they have not only a large duty on the goods provided and sent to Manila, but out of the specie, the produce of said goods, they are supplied with silver for China; and if this is not imported from Manila or Europe all the rupees in the country will be drained for China, and in a short time none to be had, which would be attended with serious consequences unless they send silver to Canton from England, which they have not done for some years past. In this view I hope they will regard the matter, and apply to his Majesty for his good offices, through his minister at the Spanish Court, for redress of our losses, and that the trade be put on a more certain footing in future; that is, to obtain permission for the Nabob to send his ships to Manila under the direction of such Europeans as he may appoint; for if the C[atholic] K[ing] employs foreigners in his service, why may not the Nabob? I hope you will use your influence to bring this about by the Company, as well as with his Majesty's ambassador at Madrid."

Various circumstances have prevented me from making remittances to you either from China, Batavia or Madras, but "I have told Mr. Morse that I would pay him the sum I owed you on demand, or continue it at interest until I could remit it to you . . . I hope you will pardon any disappointment which may arise to you from this money's not being paid in England when due, as it arose from a series of events which I could neither foresee nor prevent . . . I have however the satisfaction to inform you that the sum I owe you is as good as any in India, *malgre* Dom Joseph Raon,<sup>(2)</sup> whom if he had succeeded in his avaritious views would not have incapacitated me from paying my debts. I therefore account myself rich.

(1) George Smith came to Madras as a free merchant in 1754, and subsequently spent several years in China.

(2) Governor of Manila.



I received from the General of Batavia the greatest marks of politeness and civilities, and obtained a valuable and well assorted cargo at that port to the amount of 70,000 rix dollars, and could the *Sultanissa* have carried goods for all the silver on board her, I could have had them, and no questions asked. But all the advantages I expected from this indulgence were frustrated by Capt. Scott's want of judgement and experience in steering an improper course for Ceyloan, which obliged us to bear away for Atcheen, finding it impracticable to fetch any part of this coast, not even Point Palmeiras. We were so far to the East of Ceyloan when in its latitude, and blowing hard, the south west monsoon having broke on us the 18th May, we were obliged to bear away for Atcheen, which we could not fetch, so were forced to go to Queda, which we reached in great distress. We arrived here only the 21st September, and unfortunate as our voyage has been, I hope we will still get our principal concern if the *Sultanissa* can get a freight to Bombay from Bengal, where she is now gone; and I hope Mr. Russell will be able to obtain this for us. If the C[atholic] King is just and generous we will get the interest on our capital.

"The money which you lent Messrs. Jourdan,<sup>(1)</sup> &c., I have delivered to Mr. Morse: this sum and that lent Capt. Scott" I was unable to remit during my voyage, and I could not think of leaving it "in the hands of any person at Batavia (where a man to day exists and to-morrow is no more) until October, when it would be received into the Company's cash.

"I brought several curious pieces of Japan ware and china from Batavia, and made a tender of some of them to Mr. Morse for you, but he told me that you had been amply supplied before you departed from hence.

"I am favored with a most friendly letter from Mr. Vansittart this season, wherein he very kindly desires me to communicate my views as to myself, should not my Manila voyage have answered my expectations . . . I have taken the liberty of hinting to him that I should be greatly obliged to him for an introduction into Mr. Morse's house on his return to Europe or retiring from business . . . as I intend residing here untill I can go home on the terms I have always proposed for myself. . . £20,000 realized in England is the extent of my present wishes, and but for Dom Raon, I should now have been of this value. As matters have turned out . . . I must labour some years more . . . so have dropt my thoughts of seeing England so soon as I hoped; and now I have my hands at the oar I must even pull away untill I have got my vessell into port . . .

"Mrs. Munro<sup>(2)</sup> desires her compliments to you and Mrs.

(1) Francis Jourdan joined as a Writer in 1759, and accompanied the Manila expedition in 1762. In 1776 he entered Council and held the appointments of Land Customer, Rental General and Scavenger. He sided with the majority against Lord Pigot, and was recalled to England in 1777.

(2) Frances Mary Munro, widow of Dr. Andrew Munro and aunt of George Smith. She resided at Madras until her death in 1771.

Palk, and says she hopes you have assisted in getting Aurora<sup>(1)</sup> sent to her under care of a proper person. I have received Bob's<sup>(2)</sup> dividend of the Nabob's debt to him, and will continue to receive any more which may be made him, which I fear will be but small and slowly paid. His mother is very anxious about hers, and no wonder, as almost all her money is in those funds. It will, I hope, in time be paid off.

"I was happy to hear of your and Mrs. Palk's safe arrival at St. Helena, and hope this will find you happily settled in Old England, where that you may live long in health and prosperity I most sincerely wish . . .

"GEORGE SMITH."

"P.S. The money I had in the Nabob's hands was fortunately paid off in the currency of 1766 as my bonds became due."

[*Holograph*, 7 pp., 4to.]

[No. 34.]

JOHN CALLAND<sup>(3)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1767, November 3rd, Fort St. George.—"Sir, The many friendly offices I have received from you, added to the assurance you gave me on leaving India, induces me to take this opportunity of writing you, as it will inform you of a circumstance the most interesting to me that has ever yet happened, since it not only effects [*sic*] my character but future expectation, and has badly rewarded me for so many years' service . . .

"You can be no stranger to the malicious disposition of the gentlemen that I had for my Counsel at Cuddalore, who by encouraging every thing that could oppose me and giving ear to every story that was told them without foundation or enquiry, I must greatly attribute what has happened, flattering themselves that if they could but get me removed, their frauds could not be detected . . .

"Shortly after your leaving Madras, the old Investment being at an end, a new one was to commence, when I proposed, as the most effectual means of making the Merchants fulfill their future contracts, a penalty of 10 per cent. on failure. This the Merchants consenting to, a few days after were called to execute them; but instead of complying, not only refused doing of it, but denied having agreed to any such thing. As a letter had been wrote to the Presidency immediately on our engagement, I was under the necessity of representing this behaviour, when the Merchants were directly ordered up to

(1) Margaret Aurora Munro, younger daughter of Dr. Munro. She married her cousin George Smith in 1769.

(2) Robert Duncan Munro, son of Dr. Munro, was a Madras civil servant of 1765. He married Elizabeth Williamson in 1782.

(3) John Calland, a civil servant of 1751, was Chief at Cuddalore in 1767, when he was suspended.

Madras. But previous to their setting out, Mr. Dowsett<sup>(1)</sup> sent for Irshapah Chitty, the leading man of the whole and asked him what he had done to me to occasion my being so inveterate as to occasion my writing to Mr. Bouchier in particular against him, to take away his Palankeen and turn him out of the contract. This had the effect which was expected and desired of enraging this man against me, and by that means the others from his influence over them."

Dowsett having obtained leave, hurried to Madras to represent to Mr. Bouchier that Irsappa Chetti was the cause of the trouble. When the Merchants arrived "the Governor was of course extremely angry with them, but in particular with this Irshapah Chitty, and laid the whole blame on him for the trouble they had given. This confirmed him in what had been so falsely told him, and fearing the disgrace of having his Palankeen taken from him and turned out of the contract, and the others, not knowing what might happen to them, thought it advisable to fall on some method to appease the Governor's anger, and of course made their application to Narrain Pillah and Chocapah Chitty<sup>(2)</sup> . . . as having the ear of Mr. Pybus . . . What with preparations for the expedition to Golcondah and other matters, the Merchants continued for six weeks, if not longer, at Madras without anything further passing; which gave them all the time they could wish in preparing and making good their story, and visiting Mr. Dowsett, who was all this time there with them, daily."

Eventually the Merchants were received by the Governor and Mr. Pybus, and directed to submit their complaints in writing. At the next Council meeting four of them handed in petitions, which were entered in the proceedings; the remaining three said they had no cause of complaint. I was then ordered to Madras. "On my arrival I visited the Governor, who received me as he had always done and . . . with the same deceit, his tongue saying one thing and his heart another. However, from the favourable reception I met with I freely told him every thing . . . expressing my astonishment that any complaint whatever should be made against me by these people, as I had never given them any cause that I knew of, or ever heard they were dissatisfied. From the Governor I went to Mr. Pybus to pay my compliments, who, instead of receiving me with even common politeness or civility due to a stranger, absolutely insulted and abused me, comparing me to Governor Macrae,<sup>(3)</sup> and telling me that if what the merchants alledged against me was true, and which he made not the le[a]st doubt of, I ought to be dismissed the service with infamy (for these were his very words and expressions). . . .

(1) Robert Dowsett, who entered the Madras civil service in 1751, was 2nd in the Cuddalore Council in 1767.

(2) Narāyan Pillai and Chokappa Chetti, Madras Merchants for the Company.

(3) James Macrae, Governor of Madras 1725-30, was, on his supersession, charged by certain natives with tyranny and acceptance of bribes. (*Madras Consultation*, 2nd June, 1730.) The charges appear to have been unfounded.



"Some days after my arrival the petitions were sent me by the Secretary (another advocate for the cause by his connexion with Dowsett and Cuming<sup>(1)</sup>) to answer which I did accordingly; but foreseeing . . . that I should have the worst of it . . . I went frequently and breakfasted with Mr. Bouchier, and desired him to accommodate the matter, since it must hurt me at any rate if such a thing appeared on record. But all was to no purpose. His answer was, that as it was now in every one's mouth, the only way was to go through with it . . .

"It's unnecessary to repeat what are in the proceedings, as I have sent them to Colonel Campbell with direction to get them drawn out in another manner, and to make the whole publick, since I not only think myself extreamly injured, but there isn't a person in the Settlement acquainted with the service but thinks so too." Suffice it to say that I hope you will use your influence with the Court of Directors on my behalf. "Though I intend to proceed to England, 'tis not by choice, but necessity that obliges me to it, and therefore shall perhaps be glad to return again if I can do it with credit . . ."

"JOHN CALLAND."

[*Holograph, 8 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 35.]

MOOPERALA KISTNIA<sup>(2)</sup> and RAMA KISNA to ROBERT PALK,  
Esqr.

1767, November 4th, Fort St. George. (Received per *Hector*, 22nd April, 1768.)—"Sir, We had the pleasure of addressing you per *Anson*, and the duplicate of which went per *Pigot*, whereby you would have been fully informed about the Beetle and Tobacco farm is end[ed] to us soon after your departure . . .

"Old Kistnia hinted to you several times that after your government this poor country and the inhabitants would not be so happay and quiet as during your time. Just it has happened accordingly, every body wishing for your goodness and care that lived in peace with all the Powers of the country; whereas lately a small body of the enemy's horse rode up to the Governor's Garden House,<sup>(3)</sup> burning and destroying all that came in their way.<sup>(4)</sup> Number[s] of poor innocent people from St. Thome, the Mount, Conjeveram and other places were killed, wounded and carried into captivity without one soul going to their defence, which has occasioned such a general consternation in our Black Town that most of the inhabitants

<sup>(1)</sup> William Cuming, a civil servant of 1760, was at Cuddalore in 1767.

<sup>(2)</sup> *Ibid* No. 16, p. 19, note 1.

<sup>(3)</sup> The Governor's (or Company's) Garden house was situated one mile S.W. of the Fort. It is now Government House, Madras.

<sup>(4)</sup> This raid on the suburbs was made on the 28th and 29th September by about 3,000 of Haidar's cavalry. Madras being denuded of troops, the civil servants and other Europeans, as well as the Portuguese and Armenian residents, were armed for the defence of the Fort and Town (*Madras Letters to England*, 8th Oct., 1767).

have sent out their families to places of security, which is a great hinderance to all trade and business. God send us peace and quietness, for otherwise the poor country will be entirely ruined.

"It will give us great pleasure to hear of your safe arrival in England, and that you and Mrs. Palk and General Lawrence enjoy a good health, to whom please to present our most humble respects . . ."

"MOOPERALA KISTNIA

"RAMA KISNA."

[*Holograph of Rama Kisna, 3 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 36.]

NAWAB WALAJAH to GENERAL [STRINGER] LAWRENCE.

"Nabob Waulau Jau, Ummeer Hind, Umdetul Molek, Seerajah Dowla, Anaverden Cawn Behauder, Munsoor Jung, Sepoy Sardar,

to

"Shum Sool Mulk, Hisanmood dowla, General Lawrence, Behauder, Hous Bur Jung."

1767, November 5th, Fort St. George.--"Sir, The Company's ship *Hector* being now under dispatch for England, I embrace with pleasure the opportunity of enquiring after your welfare, as well as to acquaint you of the receipt of your letter, with the telescope which you was so extreemly good as to get repaired for me. I return you many thanks for the great care you have taken of it.

"I am sorry to acquaint you that the house and furniture you was so kind [as] to leave me at the Mount was plundered by our enemy, and particularly the cot you used to sleep upon and the diamond cut globe were entirely destroyed. The loss of these two articles gives me great concern; but as this is a subject of which you will hear of from some of your friends, excuse me from mentioning [it] any further.

"Believe me I shall be ever ready of embracing every opportunity that presents itself of serving you, as I shall be ever sensible of the many great obligations I lay under to you. Give me [leave] to conclude, Sir, by saying I am and ever shall be your sincere friend. What can I say more?"

[2 $\frac{1}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 37.]

THE YOUNG NAWAB<sup>(1)</sup> to GENERAL [STRINGER] LAWRENCE.

1767, November 5th, Fort St. George. --"Sir, My father by this conveyance does himself the pleasure of writing to you.

"I have received your letter, and am glad to hear of your safe arrival in England, and hope your native air agrees with [you].

(1) Amir-ul-Umarā, Walajah's second and favourite son.

“Wishing you every joy this life affords, I remain, Sir, your sincere friend ever to command. What can I say more ?

[P.S.] “My two brothers<sup>(1)</sup> present their respects to you.”

[1 p., 4to.]

[No. 38.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN] GOODLAD.

1767, November 15th, Spring Gardens. (Received 8th May, 1768, per *Watson*.)—“Dear Goodlad, By the ships lately arrived I have received two letters from you which gave me much satisfaction. I shall always expect and I shall always be glad to hear from you, as I take great part in your success and prosperity.

“I saw Mrs. and Miss Goodlad yesterday, and was happy to find your mother’s health so well reestablished. She mentioned to me her intention of remitting you one thousand pounds, and I promised to give a bill for that sum whenever it was convenient to her.

“I am settled in a town house at least for three years, and whenever any thing offers to my liking, I shall make a purchase in the country; for in this very expensive land it becomes necessary to get into a settled way of life as soon as possible.

“Capt. Martin has left a fine family, and in good time I hope we shall be able to send you one of them. We are selling out the India stock; by the present price the estate will be benefited upwards of two thousand pounds.

“I have been well received both by His Majesty and the Company. Mrs. Palk and the children are well, and I expect soon to have an addition to the family.

“So many gentlemen returning to the Council will not be very acceptable at Madras. Mackay’s bar<sup>(2)</sup> was also intended to be taken off, but that is dropt, for the present at least. Lord Clive has exerted himself for Mr. Call, but Mr. Dupré has carried it.<sup>(3)</sup> Annual salaries are settled on the Governor and Council of Bengal, and perhaps at Madras. No European is to trade in salt, &c., and the Governor of Bengal is not to trade at all. Such regulations as these, however, cannot be lasting.

“I have endeavoured to get you Coral consignments, but with no success I fear. Tell Mr. Johnson<sup>(4)</sup> that I am sorry to say that all my interest, with Lord Clive’s added to it, cannot get my nephew<sup>(5)</sup> out a writer. I hope, however, we shall be more successful after the departure of the *Watson*. I am, dear Goodlad, your affectionate and sincere friend,

“ROBT. PALK.”

“Mrs. Palk sends you her best wishes.”

[Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.]

(1) Umdu-ul-Umarā, Wajajah’s eldest son, and Saif-ul-Mulk.

(2) George Mackay was barred by the conditions of his admission to Council from rising above the position of junior member.

(3) The Directors determined that Du Pré should supersede Call in Council.

(4) James Johnson, *vide* No. 28, p. 45, note 7.

(5) Thomas Palk, son of Governor Palk’s brother Walter.



[No. 39.]

[To the EDITOR] "For the MORNING CHRONICLE."

N.D. [?1767]—"You are desired to assure the writer off a false and scandalous letter in your paper off yesterday, addrest too L. S. Esq.<sup>(1)</sup> and signed *Pericles*, that fame was never more mistaken than in what is alledged concerning 10,000 being given too procure a Government for a gentleman formerly in the Church. The appointment at that time met the general approbation. He had been long in the service, and without ever applying by himself or freinds too any Director had been made a member off the Select Committee, and had been ordered the publick thanks off the Company and a present as a mark off their approbation near the same time that General Laurance and Lord Clive had been rewarded and distinguisht.

"Mr. Palk almost at the commencement off the war on the coast of Caromandel had been deputed with General Laurance too consert measures for its success with the powers from whome assistance was expected, the Misoreans, Marattas, Tanjorins, Maravars, &c. He was in several campains with General Laurance, and in consert with him formed those military regulations which have effectually almost ever since kept down the great expence off the army on the coast of Caromandel. He kept the Rajah off Tanjour in freindship and alliance with the Nabob. He had the honour of being appointed too meet the French deputies at the congress held at Sadrass in the time of Mr. Dupleix, when with the assistance of Mr. Vansittart a forgery was discovered in the Mogul's saned.<sup>(2)</sup> He was also deputed to conculde [*sic*] the truce with Mr. Godcheu, and his appointment to succeed Lord Pigot was never solicited on his part: it was freely and graciously offered, and given without fee or reward."

[2 pp., 4to.]

[Note. The foregoing eccentrically spelt letter is written by an unknown hand. It is endorsed in a different handwriting "Mr. Palk's services." The file of the *Morning Chronicle* preserved in the British Museum is incomplete, and neither the letter signed *Pericles* nor this reply can be traced.]

[No. 40.]

ROBERT PALK to [(?)THOMAS SAUNDERS.]

[Endorsed in Palk's hand] "War with Hyder Aly. Draft of a letter to Mr. S."<sup>(3)</sup>

N.D. [*cir.* 1767.]—"Dear Sir, It having been said that the treaty <sup>(4)</sup> with Nizam Aly was the cause of the present war with

(1) Laurence Sullivan, who was Chairman of the Court of Directors when Palk became Governor in November, 1763.

(2) *Saned*, Ar. *sanad*, a deed of grant.

(3) Mr. S. was probably either Thomas Saunders or Laurence Sullivan. Saunders is the more likely, as he was Deputy Chairman of the Court of Directors in 1767, while Sullivan was not on the Directorate.

(4) The Treaty of 1766, negotiated by Caillaud.

Hyder Aly, which it was intended to prevent, I shall give you very briefly my sentiments on this subject, from memory and recollection only, as my papers are in town.

“When I took possession of the Government in 1763 after an unsuccessful attack on Madura, I saw the necessity of keeping on good terms with Hyder Aly, not only as he was grown very powerful, but that he might not intermeddle in the troubles caused by Cawn Saib; <sup>(1)</sup> and in this I succeeded so well that I doubted not of keeping the peace between the Nabob and him, till the surrender of Madura, when many of his letters of encouragement and promises of assistance were found amongst the papers of Cawn Sahib; on which I remonstrated to the Vaquil, who assured me his master would in future alter his conduct and by our means hope to live in peace with the Nabob, with whom however he did not correspond. At this time Hyder Aly was attacked by the Marattas, and after several obstinate engagements obliged them to retire from the Misore country. Immediately after this he reduced the province of Shirpi <sup>(2)</sup> and a part of Currapah, and the Nabob of the former with the principal men took refuge with Mahomet Aly. <sup>(3)</sup> I endeavoured often to prevail on him to send them away, and he promised they should be carried to Mecca, though Hyder Aly had given like protection to Chunda Saib’s son <sup>(4)</sup> and many others who had been rebels to his government; and after that Mauphus Cawn, the elder brother of our Nabob, under the pretence of going over land to Bombay and proceeding from thence to Mecca, took shelter with the Misore Usurper.

“In this manner things went on till the French arrived and Hyder Aly had sufficiently alarmed the Gentlemen of Bombay, reduced the whole Malabar Coast from Sunda, east of Goa, to Travencore and enriched his treasury with the immense wealth of Bidnoor. <sup>(5)</sup> He then came round in the rainy season to the neighbourhood of Caroor, west of Trichenopoly, and finding that place too strong to be carried by a sudden attack, he desisted from that enterprize; but he spread so much disaffection by sending Mauphus Cawn <sup>(6)</sup> toward the Madura and

(1) Muhammad Yusuf Khan, commonly known as “Cawn Saib,” attracted notice in 1752 by his gallant behaviour under Captain Dalton at Utatur. In 1754 he received a commission as Commandant of the Company’s native troops, and he did good service with the field force during the siege of Madras in 1758-59. He subsequently became Renter in the Southern districts, and the power he wielded tempted him to aim at independence. Obtaining French assistance, he fortified himself in Madura, where he was besieged by Donald Campbell in 1763 and Charles Campbell in 1764. The place ultimately capitulated after a protracted defence. Yusuf Khan was delivered up by M. Marchand and was executed as a rebel.

(2) Sira or Sirpi. *Vide* No. 19, p. 23, note 7.

(3) Muhammad Ali Khan, Nawab of Arcot and the Carnatic, who received the title Walajah in 1765.

(4) Chanda Sahib had been supported by the French in his claim to be ruler of the Carnatic in opposition to Muhammad Ali, who was backed by the British. Chanda Sahib fell into the hands of the Tanjore general in 1752 and was beheaded, but he left a son, Razā Sahib, who was naturally regarded with disfavour by the Nawab.

(5) Bednur. *Vide* No. 30, p. 49, note 2.

(6) Mahfuz Khan, elder brother of Nawab Muhammad Ali.

Tinnavilly Polligars that those very large districts scarce paid the expence of the troops we were obliged to keep there. I should before have said that Caroor had been taken from the Misorians when they endeavoured to relieve Pondichery, and though frequently demanded, nobody judged it ought to be ceded, especially as Dindagul, which formerly belonged to Trichenopoly, had been added to the Misore Government.

“The French were now at Pondichery and the great number of prisoners from Trichenopoly and Madras delivered up to them, unable to pay them or willing to create troubles and encourage their old ally Hyder Aly, they suffered their officers and men to desert to him; and when the Nabob remonstrated against so suspicious a conduct they said Pondichery was open, and therefore not in their power to prevent desertion.

“In 1765, after Nizam Aly’s disgraceful attempt on the Arcot Province, and demanding 17 years’ tribute, great court was paid to him by Hyder Aly, Mauphus Cawn sent to Hidrabad, and a saned obtained for the Carnateck.

“It now became necessary to set on foot a negotiation with Hyder Aly, to which we were the more encouraged as we had all along to all appearance kept on very good terms with him. I therefore prevailed on the Vakil to make the proposal as from himself; and it was determined that Mr. James Bouchier, one of our Council, should be deputed to him, and he accordingly set out with proper instructions and presents with the Vaquil, who was to meet his master on the other side of the hills and advise Mr. Bouchier at Velloor of the place of interview. But after waiting an unreasonable time he returned, and Hyder, having changed his mind, gave in excuse that troubles on the Malabar coast called for his immediate presence. The Vaquil confessed to me that his master and his Dirbar<sup>(1)</sup> were so intoxicated with their success that they seemed to think even the Europeans could not stop their career.

“In this situation I prevailed on the Nabob to send a trusty person to Nizam Aly to insinuate to him the bad consequences which would attend the seat of the Dekkan Government from our neighbourhood in the Circars if he persisted in encouraging Hyder Aly, and this messenger had instructions on the part of the Nabob and us to establish harmony and a good understanding; but Nizam Aly was so much exasperated against the Nabob that he would not listen to any proposals. I was, however, at the same time acquainted that if I applied for a gentleman of our own to come, he should be furnished with a passport.

“Accordingly General Caillaud went and concluded the treaty<sup>(2)</sup> which gave us quiet possession of the Circars and, what we judged of equal consequence, an easy method of putting

(1) *Dirbar*, *darbar*, ministers, Court, hall of audience, *levée*: from Pers. *dar-bār*, within the court-yard.

(2) The Treaty of Hyderabad of 12th November, 1766.



an end to the views of Hyder Aly on the Carnateck, without making ourselves principals, by obliging him to pay his long arrears of tribute to Nizam Aly, to confine himself within the bounds of the antient kingdom of Misore and to leave the Nabob in possession of the passes, which it was our intention, as well as the Company's orders, to take possession of as soon as possible, but which would never be done without coming to hostilities, most of them having been formerly surprized by Hyder Aly; and without these it was in the power of every petty Polligar to disturb the peace of the Nabob's country from Tinnavilly to Cadapa, a length of 700 miles.

"Many unforeseen accidents happened to prevent the speedy success of this expedition, which was intended to be undertaken with all possible dispatch, and it was reasonably imagined that 20,000 horse of Nizam Aly's joined to [a] reasonable body of our Europeans and sepoys, with a good train of artillery, would in a few months happily finish the expedition; but unfortunately Nizam Aly was so tedious and dilatory in joining that when [he] entered the hills which divide the Carnateck and the Misore country, it was almost time to return to save his passage over the Christna; and the rains soon coming on, in which the army could not act effectually, the want of subsistence and pay for his troops induced him through necessity to change sides and accept the offers of Hyder Aly; though the army in the Circars, soon made him repent of that measure so contrary to treaty and his own true interest."

[*Holograph*, 5 pp., 4to.]

[*Note*. The above draft letter is in Palk's handwriting, but is unsigned.]

#### [No. 41.]

[Memorandum by LAURENCE SULIVAN.]

N.D. [1767, July—December.]—"Governor Palk to apply to the following:—General Calliaud;<sup>(1)</sup> Mr. Pechell and friends; T. and C. Brett, Esqs., and friends: the Vaughans; A. Chorley; E. Mason; R. Horne, &c., formerly qualified; Mr. Pybus, when he comes;<sup>(2)</sup> the Boscawen family; Mrs. Boscawen<sup>(3)</sup> kindly qualified as well [as] Mrs. Judy Levy at her desire; Colonel Charles Campbell<sup>(4)</sup> and friends; R. Fairfield<sup>(5)</sup> and

(1) General John Caillaud. *Vide* No. 73, p. 102, note 1.

(2) John Pybus was expected to arrive about April 1768. (*Cf.* No. 30, p. 51).

(3) Frances, widow of Admiral the Hon. E. Boscawen.

(4) Colonel Charles Campbell, brother of Colonel Donald Campbell, served as Captain with the Madras European Regiment in 1758. As Major he successfully conducted the second siege of Madura in 1764. In the two following years Colonel Campbell commanded the force acting against the Poligars north of Trichinopoly. He wrote a journal of his operations, which is preserved among the Orme MSS.

(5) Richard Fairfield entered the Madras civil service in 1746. In 1758 he was one of the signatories to the articles of capitulation of Fort St. David, and in the following year was a Councillor at Fort St. George.

friends; Captain Kilpatrick and friends; R. Starke<sup>(1)</sup> and friends; A. Preston and friends; Mr. Line; Mr. Lind; Cotsford deceased, his stock to be transferred and made a vote; Vantellingen to buy largely; Rev. Erasmus Sanders; Sir Harry and George Bridgeman<sup>(2)</sup> through Mrs. Martin; Mr. Palk and Mr. Brett's bankers to be made a point—they can do much.

“Van<sup>(3)</sup> has several memorandums in which Mr. Palk can greatly assist, particularly with J. Boyd<sup>(4)</sup> and Mr. Somner.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 8vo.]

[*Note*. The above memorandum is in the handwriting of Laurence Sullivan, but is unsigned. It names friends of Palk who were qualified (by the possession of not less than £500 of India stock) to vote for candidates for the Directorate.]

[No. 42.]

CAPTAIN T[HOmas] MADGE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1768, February 20th, Camp near Combammatt.—“Sir, The permission you were pleased to indulge me with, at taking my leave of you at Madrass, of writing you by every opportunity emboldens me to embrace this first opportunity since you left India”; for sailings have hitherto been notified too late to permit of my writing, “owing to the great distance I was at these times from any of our Settlements.

“I am sorry to acquaint you that the command of the troops stationed in the Circars, which you procured the promise of my being appointed to, never took place, as notwithstanding . . the assurances made you by those who had it in their power . . you were no sooner out of sight of Madrass than an entire alteration in their measures occasioned me no longer to hope for any favor from those I had been recommended to . . . Indeed I met with some difficulty at Masulipatam in getting Mr. Palk<sup>(5)</sup> appointed to my battalion, which I could not effect till I wrote Mr. Bouchier on the occasion.

“As soon as I found my disappointment certain by the Governor's declaring the command in the Circars was never intended for me, I wrote my friend Mr. Pybus on the occasion, desiring him to acquaint you in his next letters that this contempt of your recommendation had not been owing to my misconduct. At the same time I desired him to procure a conveyance for a

(1) Richard Starke, a Madras civil servant of 1735, was Deputy Governor of Fort St. George for a short period in 1752, and thereafter Deputy Governor of Fort St. David until 1756, when he resigned the service.

(2) Sir Henry Bridgeman, Bt., was created Baron Bradford. His brother George died in December 1767. The date of Laurence Sullivan's Memorandum must therefore lie between the 13th July, 1767, when Palk arrived in England, and the end of the year.

(3) Henry Vansittart.

(4) John Boyd, formerly a Director.

(5) Lieut. Thomas Palk, a kinsman of Governor Palk (probably grandson of an uncle of the latter), not to be confused with Thomas Palk, son of Walter Palk and nephew of Governor Palk.

box of china, which I had wrote to my Unkle to send me from China, as a present for my old friend Colonel Monson,<sup>(1)</sup> and which I assumed the liberty to desire might be directed to your care in England . . . But he never vouchsafed to send me an answer till within a day or two of his leaving the country. This neglect of his prevented my sending you a letter with the box . . .

“About a month after my return from Madrass, on the troops designed for the Hyderabad service leaving the Circars, I was sent up to the Chicacole province with a small detachment to assist the newly appointed Renter in plundering the country, for his method of collecting the revenues could be construed in no other light. As a particular favor I was allowed to take Mr. Palk with me, which I thought more for his interest than if he remained at Ellour, as the morals of most of the officers left in the Circars were such as would not have improved his by following their example. I did not find the Chief of Masulipatam<sup>(2)</sup> was willing to do any thing for him, as he would not consent to his having the command at Condapillee, though it was garrisoned only by a part of my battalion, and the other lieutenant chose to be with me in the field.

“The impropriety in the choice of the Chicacole Renter for the last year surprised every body, and gave the country powers no very favorable opinion of the abilities or penetration of the person who entrusted him with it, as after a great many frivolous excuses for the non-performance of his engagements, his intentions began to be suspected and Jague Pundat was sent up to settle accounts with him. He left me to settle some affairs in the Ichapour country, whither he said there was no necessity for my attending him; and on Juggo Pundat’s arrival at my camp he took care to amuse him with idle stories till he had collected the revenues of the Circar. Which when he had secured, under pretence of coming to settle his accounts with Jague Pundat, he pursued a different rout through the hills and threw himself into Vizianagaram, and put himself under the protection of Sitteramrauze,<sup>(3)</sup> who had the insolence to insist on being arbitrator in the dispute between the Company and the Renter, which, I am almost ashamed to tell you, was tacitly consented to.

“I left the Renter and Jague Pundat at Vizianagaram in December last in dispute before the Raja, on my way to join the army intended to act in the Deckan; since when I have been informed that the Renter has compromised his affairs with the Company at the expence of some individuals from whom he has received large deductions, to make good which it is very probable he will be again entrusted with the management of the Circar!

(1) *Vide* No. 6, p. 12, note 2.

(2) John Lewin Smith.

(3) Sītārām Rāz, *Vide* No. 19, p. 28, note 5.



“As you will undoubtedly receive a better account of the war with the Soubah and Hyder Ally in the Carnatic than I can pretend to give you, I shall decline the task, and confine myself to what has been doing in this part of the Deckan, which has brought the Soubah to a proper way of thinking for himself, as he pretends to be heartily tired of his alliance with Hyder Ally, from whom he has withdrawn himself, and is now negotiating with the Council at Madras for a new alliance, which, it is reported, is nearly finished.

“At the commencement of the war in the Carnatic application was made to the Presidency of Calcutta for a body of troops to be sent to Masulipatam, who were to act against the Soubah in the Deckan. Accordingly three battalions of Bengal seapoys were landed at Vizagapatam in the month of October, and notwithstanding the urgent necessity that appeared for their immediate proceeding to Masulipatam, they could not be put in motion till the month of December for want of conveniences for transporting their stores and baggage, which I was obliged to furnish them with at last from Chicacole.

“In December three companies of Bengal infantry arrived at Masulipatam, with whom, and two companies of the Coast infantry, some artillery, and my battalion of seapoys, Colonel Hart<sup>(1)</sup> was ordered to take the field. I had been ordered from Chicacole to go with the expedition as soon as it was concerted, unless I preferred the command I then enjoyed; but by a private letter from the artfull Chief of Masulipatam I could easily perceive he wished I would join the army, hinting as if Colonel Hart was not equal to the command of so important a service. Though the remaining at Chicacole was certainly more to my advantage, I never hesitated a moment about resigning it, and accordingly repaired to the army with Mr. Palk, who I was allowed to bring with me from Chicacole. On my arrival I found Mr. Smith had ordered Hart to appoint me his Aid de Camp and Secretary; and to add to the affront I was actually put in orders without being consulted whether or no I approved of the appointment.

“By representing to the Chief the impropriety of my acting in the capacity of a staff officer whilst I remained second in command, together with my resolution of acting as a private officer, he acquiesced in my declining it; when Hart offered me to dispose of it to whom I pleased—a favor I had no right to expect. I however procured it for Mr. Palk, who was appointed accordingly.

“We marched the 10th of December from Ellour towards Combanmett, the Phousdahr<sup>(2)</sup> of which had bargained for the surrender of the Fort and Circar with the Chief of Masuli-

(1) Simon Hart, who entered the Madras Army as Ensign in 1754, and, as Captain accompanied Caillaud to Bengal in 1759. He was serving at Trichinopoly in 1762.

(2) *Phousdar*, a magistrate, native governor, from Pers. *pauidār*, a military commander.

patam some time before we took the field. But so indiscreet was the Chief's conduct on the occasion that, had the Soubah any troops at Hyderabad, we could not have taken it, as he could have thrown in a sufficient force to have defended it against all the troops in the Circars long before we could have taken advantage of the disposition of the Phousdahr in our favor. However, circumstances proved more lucky than we had a right to expect, and we reached the place in time to secure it, though a body of the Soubah's rabble had been assembled, and on the march to dispossess the Phousdar of his charge. They halted within twenty coss of the place on hearing we had got possession of it, and as soon as we were joined by the Bengal seapoys from Vizagapatam we advanced upon them and came up with their main body, consisting of 4,000 horse and foot, which had taken post under the walls of a small fort. They made a few flourishes with their horse, but on our advanced guard's attempting to close with them, they walked off in such a hurry that we had not time to fire three shot from our field pieces till they were out of sight, nor did they ever stay within two days' march of us afterwards. A desperate sett of them had thrown themselves into the fort, which they resolutely defended for two hours, and did not surrender till I brought up my battalion to the gateway, which we had nearly burst open with our field pieces, when they threw down their arms.

"The resolute behaviour of our troops at this place so intimidated the Zemindars, who were before assembling to stop our progress, that they all sent letters desiring our favor and protection to the commanding officer. And we took possession of the fort of Worrangle and the Circar which bears its name without seeing the face of an enemy.

"The progress of our arms in the Deekan began to alarm the Soubah, who never imagined we could bring an army into the field against them from the Circars, from the accounts he had received of our small force and the hopes of opposition to our Government he had reason to flatter himself with from the refractory Pollygars. But as soon as he found out his mistake, he applied to Madrass for an accommodation, which has been in some respects attended to, and we in consequence of it stopt in our career, with the prospect of the plunder of Hyderabad almost within grasp, without hopes of being allowed to make use of the opportunity. We are now within 30 coss of the city, and notwithstanding the Soubah's son<sup>(1)</sup> has been exerting his utmost endeavours to persuade the Zemindars dependent on his family to join him, he has not been able to collect together above 5,000 bad horse and Sibbendy,<sup>(2)</sup> and these so badly paid and provided, and at the same time so frightened, that we might expect to find the place abandoned before we could come within a day's march of it.

(1) Nawab Sikandar Jah, son and eventual successor of Nizam Ali.

(2) *Sibbendy*, from Hind. *sibandi*, irregular soldiery maintained for garrisons and guards.

“Colonel Peach,<sup>(1)</sup> who joined the army the last month with the Grenadiers and colours of his regiment and assumed the command, seems greatly chagrined at our being ordered to halt, as he had promised himself great things by prosecuting the war with the Soubah. It is supposed, should peace be the consequence of the present negotiation, that he will either be ordered to join Colonel Smith in the Carnatic, or be immediately sent back to Bengal by land ; when he may on his way call the famous Narrain Dew<sup>(2)</sup> to account, who since I left his neighbourhood has withdrawn his allegiance from the Company in consequence, as he says, of the Soubah’s positive orders, and has been for some time raising contributions and laying waste the country.

“I am sincerely concerned to acquaint you with the death of Captain Cranch,<sup>(3)</sup> who died some time in August last of the gout at Trichanapoly, regretted by all who knew him. He left a will amongst his papers, in which he has nominated me one of his executors. The other two are officers of the late 79th Regiment, and both in England. On receiving information of his death I wrote to the officer commanding at Trichanapoly (Major Flint) desiring him to send the will to my attorney at Madrass that it might be proved in the Mayor’s Court, and attested copies of it taken for the satisfaction of his family. I at the same time desired him to dispose of his effects, the amount of which and other particulars of his estate as soon as collected I will take the liberty to remit to you by the first opportunity, as there appear some circumstances in his private connexions as make me cautious of pay[ing] the legacies or disposing of his estate lest it should give umbrage to his family, with whom I am entirely unacquainted . . .

“Long ere this I flatter myself you are happily settled in England, and experience in the society of your friends and the frequent opportunities of doing good an adequate recompense for the many years of business and fatigue you have known in this country. And that health, content and every other blessing requisite to perfect happiness may long attend you and Mrs. Palk will always be the unfeigned wishes of, Sir, your much obliged, faithful, humble servant,

[*Holograph, 9½ pp., 4to.*]

“T. MADGE.”

[No. 43.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN] GOODLAD.

[Endorsed] “Received 8th August, 1768, by the hand of Mr. Helling.”

(1) Joseph Peach entered the Bengal Infantry as Major in 1764. Late in 1767 Colonel Peach conducted a force sent from Calcutta against the Nizam. Joining Colonel Hart’s detachment from the Circars, he took command and approached Hyderabad. Nizam Ali sued for peace, and Peach returned to Bengal, where he died in 1770.

(2) Narāyan Deo, insurgent zemindar of Kimeri, was attacked and defeated by Colonel Peach near the fort of Jelmur in Ganjam in May, 1768.

(3) Lieut. Peter Cranch joined the Company’s service from H.M.’s 79th (Draper’s) Regt.



1768, March 1st.—“Dear Goodlad, I thank you for your letters since my departure, and I beg I may always hear from you. Give, I desire you, my nephew Tom your advice and assistance. I intended him for a Writer, but was refused.

“If you can help the bearer, Mr. Helling, to the command of, or a birth in a country vessell, you will oblige a very capable deserving man, and also your sincere and faithful friend,

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

“ROBT. PALK.”

[No. 44.]

W[ILLIAM] ALDERSEY<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1768, March 28th, Fort William.—“Dear Sir, I did myself the pleasure of writing to you by Mr. Campbell,<sup>(2)</sup> who embarked for England in the *Europa*, and cannot omit the last opportunity I shall have this season of repeating my sincere acknowledgments of your friendly offices in this part of the world.

“Under the care of Captain Riddle I have sent a parcel directed to Mr. Phipps, in which is a piece of silver specked muslin, which I hope Mrs. Palk will do me the favor to accept of for her little daughter,<sup>(3)</sup> whom I shall hope to salute in Old England one of these days, though the prospect yet appears at a distance.

“Since our last dispatch the Gentlemen at Madras have concluded a treaty with Nizamally, and Hyderally has walked off to his own country, the particulars of which you will no doubt be fully informed of from that quarter. The situation of affairs here has not undergone the least alteration since our last advices.

“My best respects attend Mrs. Palk, General Lawrence and General Caillaud. I have already paid my compliments to Mr. Vansittart this season, but request you will take the first opportunity of repeating my acknowledgements for his many favors. I am . .

“W. ALDERSEY.”

[*Holograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 45.]

JOHN CALLAND to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1768, April 25th, Fort St. George.—“Sir, It being the advice and opinion of every one acquainted with the Cuddalore Merchants’ complaints against me, and the severe usage I have met with in consequence, that I renew by all means my application to you . . . I beg leave to enclose you duplicate of my letter per *Hector*, copies of the four petitions given in against

(1) William Aldersey, a Madras civil servant of 1754, served for several years as Secretary in the Political Department. In 1766 he was transferred to Bengal, and entered Council.

(2) Alexander Campbell. *Vide* No. 12. p. 15, note 4.

(3) Anne Palk, born 1764.

me, my answer thereto and refutation of the whole, which are the material papers of the proceedings. The remaining part, containing little more than the examination of the witnesses . . . I have sent to Colonel Campbell,<sup>(1)</sup> who will shew them to you if you will please to take the trouble of asking for them.

“As Mr. Saunders<sup>(2)</sup> will in all probability be Chairman when this affair comes under consideration, I cannot avoid looking upon it as the most propitious circumstance for me that could happen; being in the first place a man of sense and who has a thorough knowledge of the service, and in the next that you are intimately acquainted with him; from which I hope the complaints made against me will be so far mitigated that I shall be restored, by their being looked upon . . . as malicious and ill-grounded, and merely in consequence of my imposing the penalty of 10 per cent. on failure of contract, and thwarting the ambition and evil practices of the most considerable Merchants, but Irshapah Chitty and Moodo Kistna in particular . . .

“Had I robbed or defrauded the Company (as it seems those who were in Council with me are judged to have done), or had the service in the le[a]st suffered, I should have thought myself justly deserving the treatment I have received. But on the contrary, did I not bring the Cuddalore Investment to fifteen hundred bales, which was more by some hundreds than had been got for many years before? . . . Besides, is there a man in the service that can accuse me of ever wronging the Company the value of a fanam, or not doing my duty in every office I have been employed during the seventeen years of my servitude, which brought me the next to Council? . . . I flatter myself you will interest yourself so far in my behalf with Mr. Saunders as to get justice done me and every prejudice removed by my re-instatement . . . yet, should it happen otherwise, and the reward of so many years’ diligent and faithful services be cancelled . . . I shall then think it incumbent on me to use those materials I am possessed of in taking a laudable satisfaction of those men who have so cruelly injured me . . . The materials I have got I have neither spared money or trouble in procuring, and which are such as, without ostentation or deceit, must inevitably ruin Mr. Pybus, and give such an insight into things as will hurt the servants in general.

“Mr. Bouchier, I hear, accuses me of using him ill and being ungrateful. But sure, not upon reflection? Let any one read my letter to him of the 23rd March, and the Merchants’ to me a month afterwards, and be told the repeated solicitations I made him to compromise the affair, to no purpose; and then judge of the reason he has for saying so, and if I have not had sufficient cause and provocation for every thing I have said and ten times as much more. Words are nothing. ’Tis the actions of a man that another is to judge by, either of his friendship or

(1) Colonel Charles Campbell, *vide* No. 41, p. 63, note 4.

(2) Thomas Saunders was Deputy Chairman in 1767, but did not succeed to the Chair in the following year.

sincerity . . . I hope for my own sake, as well as the invidious Mr. Pybus's, and in short every other person connected with the service, that you will use your influence with Mr. Saunders and others so as to make further proceedings unnecessary. . .

“JOHN CALLAND.”

[*Holograph*, 7 pp., 4to.]

[No. 46.]

T. ORTON<sup>(1)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.]

1768, April 28th, Velloor.—“Sir . . . A few months after your departure I experienced my loss, and to speak with confidence to you, a very rash effort was made to ruin me. It may suffice to say I am sorry the country could afford such a glaring instance of credulity on one hand and malice on the other. It consisted of a letter from Colonel Smith at camp to the Board in the most aggravated terms of complaint ‘that were an abominable shame and ought to be rectified,’ which evidently appeared to have so little foundation that I acquired credit instead of the intended infamy.

“Mrs. Orton came up here directly after you embarkt and has remained here ever since . . . If any opportunity offers, I beg leave to request your favorable mention of me to any gentleman coming out, where you may think it proper. . .

“T. ORTON.”

[*Holograph*, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 47.]

JAMES BOURCHIER to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1768, May 2nd, Madrass.—“Your favor, my dear Mr. Palk, from St. Hellena, contrary to your expectation, reached me in November before we could have any intelligence of your safe arrival in England, nor have we yet any further tidings of you ; but I will hope you are there, and happy to the extent of your wishes. Your friend poor Charles<sup>(2)</sup> has had a very troublesome government almost ever since you left him in it : this confounded war has kept his hands full and his spirits harrassed, yet fortunately he has enjoyed great health. As I presume Call, whose genius lies in political narrative, has given you every particular of what has happened and what is to be expected, I will not touch on the subject. He with Mackay<sup>(3)</sup> are gone as Field Deputies to assist the Nabob and Colonel Smith with their counsel, and I hope by a vigorous and spirited effort we shall subdue the Hydra.

“The Gentlemen of Bengal, notwithstanding their boasted promises of an exertion of their assistance, have failed in the

(1) T. Orton has not been traced. Captain Roderick Orton was tried by court martial in 1769 and cashiered for yielding the fort of Erode to Haidar in the preceding December.

(2) Charles Bouchier.

(3) George Mackay. Cf. No. 13, p. 17, note 3.



most essential point of money, which will, I fear, force us to break in upon the China stock. However, nothing must now be spared to put an end to this war. If we succeed (as we have all the reason in the world to expect) in the down fall of Hyder Naigue, we shall secure stability to the Company's possessions on this and the Mulabar Coast, and root out a power, the only one indeed that could afford our neighbors (the French) any support in case of a rupture between our nations—an object in my opinion of the first importance. By the reports we have, and indeed they themselves confirm, they are collecting and disciplining a large body of troops at the Islands,<sup>(1)</sup> which, depend upon it, they will augment by every vessell they can steal out thither. It therefore behoves the Honourable Twenty four<sup>(2)</sup> to keep a very watchful eye on them, and to give us early intelligence of the first likelihood of trouble, as well as secure, by the Piscash they are to pay the Government, a formidable naval force to preserve to us the command of the seas. In that case they will put it in our power to divest the gentry of all they possess here ere they can be reinforced or even in a condition of defence.

“Most probably I shall leave India ere there can be a war, yet I shall ever retain that attachment to the service, and Madrass in particular, as to wish the utmost success to their affairs. You will know our situation, my dear Mr. Palk, and the precautions that ought to be taken to preserve the well being of the Company abroad, and I make no doubt will give them every useful light that can tend to that desirable end. It's to be hoped the Company will earnestly endeavor to keep complete our military establishment. This has been a fatal season to many valuable young officers as well as the private men; it's therefore the more necessary we should be amply supplied with recruits.

“Our society of males continues much the same as when you left us, except the loss of poor Griffiths,<sup>(3)</sup> who dyed after a long fit of illness the latter end of last month, much lamented by those who were intimately acquainted with him. Thomas<sup>(4)</sup> and Stone<sup>(5)</sup> are his executors, who will do the greatest justice to his estate. George Stratton<sup>(6)</sup> is married to a Miss Light<sup>(7)</sup> that came out on one of the latter ships of last year:—you may remember a brother<sup>(8)</sup> of hers that came out a Writer the season

(1) The Isles of France and Bourbon (Mauritius and Réunion).

(2) The twenty-four Directors of the East India Company.

(3) The Rev. Charles Griffiths arrived in India as chaplain to the 79th Regiment, and entered the Company's service in 1762. He died 25th April, 1768, when chaplain at Fort St. George.

(4) The Rev. John Thomas, chaplain.

(5) John Maxwell Stone. *Vide* No. 29, p. 16, note 4.

(6) George Stratton, a Madras civil servant of 1751, entered the Council in 1764. In 1776 he subverted the Government of Lord Pigot, and was recalled to England in the following year.

(7) Hester Eleanora Light.

(8) William Light, appointed to Madras as Writer in 1765.

before you went home. And Alexander Davidson,<sup>(1)</sup> when he quitted the sub accountantship, asked leave to go to Bengal to establish a correspondence and of course to commence merchant, is returned with a wife, a Miss Pigou, you may remember formerly under the patronage of Phebe Graham. How he succeeded in the first scheme I have not heard. Pasley,<sup>(2)</sup> Briggs<sup>(3)</sup> and the two secretaries<sup>(4)</sup> are very jolly, and hold you in grateful remembrance. I have given Mrs. Palk an account of all the females, so I shall refer you to her for particulars. Adieu, my dear Mr. Palk. Believe me, with all the gratitude a heart susceptible of the nicest feelings can possess, your ever affectionate

JIM."

[Holograph, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 48.]

GEORGE SMITH to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1768, May 7th, Fort St. George.—“Sir, I did myself the pleasure of addressing you by the *Hector*,<sup>(5)</sup> informing you of the safe arrival of the *Sultanissa Begam* at this port the 20th of September, and of her being sent to Bengal,” whence she proceeded to Bombay. The difficulty of remitting your money has been increased by the formation of an Association of diamond buyers, and “Gocull and Nellacuntaker, though they had promised me as far back as October last to take from me each the sum of 5,000 pagodas at Respondentia on diamonds security, have broke through their promise in consequence of the above combination. Thus circumstanced, and no other channel but the Company’s cash at 7s. 4d. open, what can I do? I must have recourse to your good nature and friendship for a further credit . . .

“I have given Mr. Morse a statement of your moneys in China,” which I hope to be able to remit shortly, as “the silver of this country begins to be pretty well drained, and moreover the call for money here will soon be so great that the Company’s cash in Canton must again be opened . . .

“By this ship comes a copy of a letter from the Governor of Manila to the Nabob, by which it plainly appears that what

(1) Alexander Davidson joined the Madras civil service in 1760, and became a member of Council in 1777. He was provisional Governor of Fort St. George from 1785 to 1786.

(2) Dr. Gilbert Pasley came to India with Adlercron’s Regiment in 1754, and subsequently joined the Company’s medical service. In 1761 he was transferred from the army to civil duty at the Presidency, where he remained until his death twenty years later. He married Hannah Dashwood in 1778, and was appointed Surgeon General in 1780. According to an obituary notice in *Hicky’s Bengal Gazette*, Pasley came out originally in the Artillery, “but soon exchanged the sword, sponge, worm and ramrod for the lancet, gold headed cane and snuff box.”

(3) Dr. Stephen Briggs was Surgeon General with the Army when he was summoned in 1763 to serve at Fort St. George. In 1770 he was senior Presidency Surgeon.

(4) John Maxwell Stone and William Martin Goodlad.

(5) *Vide* No. 33, p. 53.

was done to me proceeded from suspicions of English property being under my management, and that the like treatment is menaced to any ship in the same circumstances with the *Sultannissa*: from which it is evident that the Company should fall on some mode of securing the Manila trade from insult and even confiscation, or they must soon export bullion from Europe, which they will not for some time, I imagine, find convenient.

"I refer you to your other friends here for a detail of the war, the peace with the Nizam, and the present operations against Hyder Ally: they will be better able to inform you of these series of events than I can possibly do.

"Mrs. Munro<sup>(1)</sup> desires her compliments to you and Mrs. Palk, and she hopes you have been so kind as to send out her daughter<sup>(2)</sup> by the ships of this season. . . .

"GEORGE SMITH."

[*Holograph, 5 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 49.]

T[HOMAS] PALK<sup>(3)</sup> to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1768, May 7th [at Sea].—"My dear Sir, I now set down to write to all my particular friends. The man at the mast head spys land, where he has been to look out for a ship. We are now steering round the Cape, without the wind alters its point, and if it does, we shall certainly put into the Cape. I shall first begin to write to you, as I imagine we shall meet with some ship or other, for I would not miss any opportunity whatever of writing my friends an account of my health and welfare. We sailed from the Downs the 31st January, and after a troublesome passage of about three weeks, we made Tenariffe, from whence I wrote to you by a Dutch man that was first going to Cadiz and from thence to England. . . I can only mention one or two particulars. By the rolling I met with a terrible fall, that occasion[ed] me the head[ache] for several days afterwards, which I have felt since three weeks most severely. Several days together we were obliged to set on the deck to dine. You may easily judge, Sir, how great the motion was, but we have felt no such weather since, nor never do I desire to again.

"At our landing at Teneriffe Mr. Wynch<sup>(4)</sup> went to his

(1) Frances Mary, widow of Dr. Andrew Munro.

(2) Margaret Aurora Munro.

(3) Thomas Palk, son of Walter Palk and nephew of Governor Palk, arrived in the *Dutton* in 1768 and entered the Madras Army, but was subsequently transferred to the civil service. He must not be confounded with his remote cousin, Lieut. Thomas Palk, who was serving in the Northern Circars.

(4) Alexander Wynch was entertained locally in 1734 as an unpaid assistant at Madras, and afterwards as a monthly writer, but was not brought on the civil list until 1740. In 1744 he was a Councillor at Fort St. David, and in 1758, when that fort yielded to the French, he was officiating as Deputy Governor. Wynch was made a prisoner of war, and he subsequently resigned the service and went to England. In 1768 he was reappointed and nominated Chief at Masulipatam. He was Governor of Fort St. George from 1773 to 1775, and retired to England after Lord Pigot's arrival. He married first Sophia Croke, and secondly in 1754 Florentia Cradock. He died in London in 1781.



friend's house and his family with him, and had there been room he would have introduced me to him, but I made him an apology. Alexander, another who goes as a free merchant<sup>(1)</sup> and me took a lodging at a French house during our stay. I at first often received invitations from my good friend Mrs. W. to walk out on their sharp flint stones, which she liked, and most generally on the terrass on the top of the house; but afterwards when we [were] reconciled in respect to our intimacy, and found that my company was accepted of, I made free to introduce myself. On the day of our departure Mrs. W. introduced me to Mr. Dupree.<sup>(2)</sup> During the little time I picked a little acquaintance with him, and [after] about an hour stay I took my leave of him in company with Mrs. D. and Miss Monroe,<sup>(3)</sup> who are very well except Mr. D. He has carried the gout on board with him, but Mrs. D. is in great concern about her little [child] as the small pox is on board the *Queen*.

"We sailed from Tenariffe the 7th of March, from which time we had surprizing good weather with constant fair winds. We are almost becalmed in the lattitude of 35 d[c]grees south, which is something surprizing. We are not likely to have such weather as what was suspected we should. My good Mrs. W. has been under a great deal of chagrin on account of the death of her little child, which expired about a month ago. She has often been taken in fits since, more so than before, and has seemed to recover her spirits; but Miss Flora has been unfortunately taken ill of a fever, and is again at present restored to her former health I hope. We had her company to drink a cup of tea with us in our little cabbin this afternoon, which we have often had and hope to again. She is a good little girl. Mr. Wynch has shewn me several very friendly marks, which I must keep up at all events.

"Francisco has long been our waiting man, but is at present obliged to turn cook, which at first he was often complaining to me of ill usage; but that is now all over, as the complaints have been presented to the Captain, who has been ill, but is now better again. I shall say nothing more particular at present till we get sight of a ship; then I shall make a conclusion.—May the 4th.

"We are now making up to a sail as fast as we can. What she is we can't yet tell, but imagine she is a homeward bound East India man. Mr. and Mrs. Wynch are all well at present, and desire their best respects to you and Mrs. Palk, &c. . . I remain, my dear sir, your most dutiful and ever respectful nephew,

"T. PALK."

"Sunday, May 7th, 1768."

[Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.]

(1) The writer perhaps means Alexander Wynch, jun., a cadet who accompanied his father, and Alexander Williams, the only free merchant on board the *Dutton*.

(2) Josias Du Pré. Vide No. 19, p. 30, note 1.

(3) Margaret Aurora Munro.

[No. 50.]

[The REV.] JOHN THOMAS <sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1768, May 7th, Fort St. George.—“Sir, As you had poor Mr. Griffiths’<sup>(2)</sup> interest always at heart, I hope this letter relative to him will need no apology.

“After a tedious and painful illness, which he bore with great resignation, he paid his last debt to nature the 25th of last month. His last sickness, which was a complication of diseases, the gout and palsy, with a disorder of the bowels, deprived him during the last fortnight of his life first of his memory and afterwards of his understanding. Happy for him in such circumstances that he was released out of his misery!

“He has left every thing he possessed in India for the education and emolument of his two sons, which after the sale of his books and furniture may probably amount to 7,000 pagodas. Mr. Stone and I, who are appointed his executors, intend employing this money here, except what may be expended on their education. For Mrs. Griffiths’ support he has left a sum lent on Government security; how much I cannot ascertain. The Revd. Mr. Richard Canning, senior, of Ipswich, is appointed guardian to his sons.

“It was always Mr. Griffiths’ desire that both his sons should come out to this presidency in the civil service.

“You will pardon me, Sir, for embracing this opportunity of returning my most thankful acknowledgments for your favours to me at Madrass, a sense of which I hope ever to retain . . .

“JOHN THOMAS.”

[Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 51.]

RAMA KISNA to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1768, May 10th, Fort St. George.—“Sir, I did myself the honor to pay you my respects by the *Hector*,<sup>(3)</sup> which sailed hence in November last. The *Admiral Watson* is arrived the 8th [instant], and I greatly rejoiced to hear of your safe arrival in England.

“You will be informed by Mr. Morse of the Association entered into by all the European diamond merchants for buying on certain terms and conditions, as a means of reducing the Guzerat merchants to more reasonable terms; but since it took place they have been standing out in their sales at Moonimadgoo. Perseverance on our part, we hope, will at last have some good effect, without which the trade must be entirely ruined.

“Since my last I have had the misfortune to loose my good

(1) Chaplain at Fort St. George.

(2) Vide No. 47, p. 72, note 3.

(3) Vide No. 35, p. 57.

uncle Mooperala Kisnya, and my wife . . . which has been two very severe strokes to me at once and the same time. The old man served me in the stead of a father, and I am much indebted to his care for the good situation of my house after the decease of my father Ramaniah. By the decease of my wife I am left without the hopes of having any issue for some considerable time, as you are sensible of our custom of marrying [a] very young wife before they are come to [the] age of puberty.

"Peace has been made with the Nizam, and we are carrying on vigorously the war against Heyer[sic] Ally. We have taken Kisnagury, and the army is marching into the Mysore country. The scarcity of money is very great and the condition of trade very indifferent. God send us better times . . .

"RAMA KISNA."

[Holograph, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 52.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to [ROBERT] PALK, Esqr.

1768, May 12th, Fort St. George.—"My dear Mr. Palk, The *Admiral Watson* brought me your very affectionate letter<sup>(1)</sup> of the 15th November, which afforded me a pleasure I cannot easily describe to you. Indeed, my dear Sir, I will ever remember your kindness to me with a grateful heart.

"Your endeavours to procure me coral consignments were very obliging. Mr. Bouchier's strong recommendations have brought us one chest, and a promise of employment from two or three other dealers.

"Enclosed you will receive a bill for £200, being two years' interest on the money you so very obligingly lent me. . . . I have no directions from you regarding the money given by the Nabob to poor Withecombe's father. . . . I would fain have got from him both principal and interest, but my endeavours were fruitless . . . I wrote you of poor Cranch's<sup>(2)</sup> death, and promised to administer to the estate and settle his affairs. This, however, I have been prevented from doing by his having made a will when at Batavia. Madge is the only surviving executor. The state of his affairs I know not, but imagine they will yield about 1,500 pagodas.

"The next dispatches will, I fear, cut off all the creditors' resources from the Nabob for some time, as . . . we have a hint about private interest clashing with the payment of his debt to the Company. Should the Court direct his discontinuing the payments to his creditors, I know not what they will say on the subject, or how they will reconcile such an order. There are some turbulent spirits amongst them not quite so ready to

(1) *Vide* No. 38, p. 59.

(2) *Vide* No. 42, p. 68, note 3.



conform to commands as the President and Council are in general.

Mr. Dupré, &c., returning to Council is, as you say, not very agreeable to the Gentlemen here. For my own part it matters not. Andrews<sup>(1)</sup> his appointment is the only thing that vexes me, for I profess a regard for the service, and I cannot but think him unworthy of it. Is there a probability even that a man will pay a proper attention to the Company's concerns who was totally lost to any care for his own? And this is the man expressly sent out because it was necessary to strengthen the Council with *sober* and *sedate* people! Fie on it!

"Poor Ardley<sup>(2)</sup> was with me just now, hopping about like a parcht pea. 'What vexes me is that Call should be put over my head, for 'tis disgracing me without answering any one end.' The little man is really much hurt. He wants to get out of the Settlement, and will probably turn or endeavour to turn Smith<sup>(3)</sup> from Vizagapatam. I think, however, he will not effect it . . .

"With respect to politics, the Governor and Mr. Call, I suppose, write you fully. They will explain to you what is doing and what is intended, but can they tell you what has been done? I most sincerely wish, for the sake of my worthy friend Mr. Bourchier, that a man of real capacity may arrive to take the command of the army. Smith,<sup>(4)</sup> with a most amiable heart, has not an head for his station. It has been evident from the commencement of the war—too evident to us here. But will it be equally apparent to the Gentlemen at home that such has been the chief cause of our expending immense sums almost to no purpose? I love Mr. Bourchier in my heart's core, and I therefore feel the more for the many unlucky events that have fallen out since he came to the Chair. You know the Governor full well, and must have been sensible of the influence Mr. Call would have over him. The latter is unsteady. He is very snug behind the curtain. When any of our actions (to speak in the military style) redound to our credit, he has the power to engross a great share of it: when the contrary, he knows on whose shoulders they will naturally fall. I would not lay open my thoughts on such subjects to any man but you, whom I shall ever regard as a father. If I am culpable, chastise me as you would a son.

"Poor Griffith died last month after a very lingering and painful illness. Captain McLean was killed some time ago. Stratton is married to Miss Light, and Miss Carter to Captain

(1) John Andrews, who arrived in India in 1743, served in Ganjam as a political officer, and was afterwards Resident at Madapollam. He was a member of Pigot's Council in 1759, and ten years later was sent as envoy to Haidar Ali during the first Mysore war. He is mentioned as an inhabitant of Madras in 1790.

(2) Samuel Ardley joined the Madras civil service in 1749. In 1754 he was 'Register of the Choultry' and under the Land Customer at Fort St. George, and five years later was in Council.

(3) John Smith, a Madras civil servant of 1752.

(4) Colonel Joseph Smith.

Gee.<sup>(1)</sup> Mrs. Tom Powney<sup>(2)</sup> has been inoculated, and is well again without being marked. Most of the children in the Settlement have undergone the same operation. Poor Donald Campbell lost two, the only [ones] that died.

"I most sincerely hope the increase<sup>(3)</sup> you expected in your family has proved to your satisfaction. I am particularly interested in the happiness of yourself and Mrs. Palk, and shall be ever, with the most grateful sentiments of esteem and regard, your ever affectionate and obliged servant,

"W. M. GOODLAD."

"P.S. I have delivered to Captain Mears the remainder of the letters<sup>(4)</sup> you desired of me. The former part was sent by Captain Richardson of the *Pigot*, and I hope have got safe to you. By the next ship you shall have the translate of the Spanish arguments respecting the reduction of Sooloo. Adieu once more, my dearest Sir. Stone tenders his best wishes to you and Mrs. Palk."

[*Holograph*, 5½ pp., *flsep.*]

[No. 53.]

LAU[RENCE] SULLIVAN to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.]

[Endorsed in Palk's hand] "Mr. Sullivan, concerning what I have advanced."

1768, May 19th, Great Ormond Street.—"My dearest Friend, If I have hitherto taken no notice (except in casual discourse) of the money I owe you, it is because I have expected from week to week, by clearing my self of India embarrassments, to have been in a capacity to do it; but since my own honour with the interest of my friends have determined me to go deeper than ever, and consequently it will be convenient to me to delay the payment some months longer, I think it right (though by you not desired) that you have my obligation payable on demand, and which is now enclosed. The whole I make £4,108, viz., a bill on the Navy, 3,000; paid Mrs. Darvall, 1,000; paid Mrs. Wood, 108; [Total] £4,108.

"What you have lately at times disbursed at Ashburton, let me know the amount and I will give an order on my bankers for the payment. I am, with true and unalterable affection, my dear Sir, your most sincere friend and obedient servant,

"LAU. SULLIVAN."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

(1) Captain Michael Gee married Marian Carter in 1768, and was killed shortly afterwards.

(2) Catherine, daughter of Quintin de la Metrie, married in 1761 Thomas Powney, free merchant, one of the sons of Capt. John Powney, master mariner.

(3) Catherine Palk, born 1st January, 1768.

(4) Cf. No. 32, p. 52, note 3.

[No. 54.]

GEORGE VANSITTART to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

[Endorsed—Received] 2nd May [1769, per] *Valentine*.

1768, September 6th, Midnapore.—“Dear Palk, I have received your letters . . . in favour of Mr. Darell,<sup>(1)</sup> and hope to see him when I go to Calcutta. I will also do what I can for Mr. Yarde,<sup>(2)</sup> but cannot at present learn where he is.

“I live much to my satisfaction at Midnapore, but the matter of profit is entirely changed by the Court of Directors’ orders concerning salt, who choose rather that the benefit of that trade should be enjoyed by a parcel of Calcutta Banyans<sup>(3)</sup> than by their own servants. Of three things I have now to determine which to prefer—spend more money than I can gain, improve my fortune by means which would be prejudicial to the Company, or trade in salt, &c., in spite of their orders at the risque of being dismissed from their service.

“I am sorry to have a piece of very disagreeable news to communicate to you. Through the influence of bad example and bad advice your nephew<sup>(4)</sup> has been led into a scrape, which I fear will be the means of his losing the Company’s service. Upon his arrival at Cossimbazar he was appointed to the office of Buxey,<sup>(5)</sup> and in consequence had the care of providing materials for the cantonments which are building there. In the management of this business his predecessors had been used to charge the Company 30, 40, 50 per cent. above the bazar price. Your nephew was unfortunate enough to continue the practice. A month or two ago it was discovered, and it is now under strict examination. I have sent Harry<sup>(6)</sup> a copy of what he has been able to say in his defence : he will show it to you.

“Mrs. G. Van. desires to be remembered. She was brought to bed of a boy<sup>(7)</sup> the 19th of last month, and is now very well. My love to Mrs. Palk. I will write to her by the next ship. My congratulations to you both on the increase of your family.

“Mr. Verelst<sup>(8)</sup> talks of going home this season, and Mr. Cartier<sup>(9)</sup> will succeed to the Chair. We are at present in peace, but probably shall not be so long : however, I will not go about to entertain you with politicks or news. I write fully and freely to Harry, and that must suffice. I am ever, my dear Palk, your very sincerely affectionate

“GEORGE VANSITTART.”

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

(1) Lionel Darell, a Bengal civil servant of 1768, resigned in 1776. He became a Director of the Company in 1780, and was created a baronet in 1795.

(2) John Yarde, a lately arrived Cadet. He became Captain in 1777, and died in the same year at Dinapore. He appears to have belonged to Churston Ferrers.

(3) *Banyan*, from Hind. *banya*, a native trader, especially from Guzerat.

(4) Robert Palk, jun.

(5) *Buxey*, from Hind. *bakhshi*, paymaster.

(6) Henry Vansittart.

(7) George Henry Vansittart.

(8) Harry Verelst became Governor on the retirement of Clive in February, 1767.

(9) John Cartier succeeded Verelst in 1769.



[No. 55.]

T[HOmas] PALK to R[OBERT] PALK, Esq.

1768, September 30th, Camp near Colar to the southward of Madras.<sup>(1)</sup>—"My dear Sir, We arrived here the 13th July after a passage of six months, which I thought very long. . . Mr. Wynch behaved exceedingly well to me : I wanted for nothing. I came ashore at Madras in the boat with him and Mrs. W., who was very kind to me, more so than I ever could expect ; not the least vanity appeared in her. I was to have had a room in his house, but Mr. Goodlad insisted that I should be with him whilst I remained at Madras, which was about a fortnight, I being very busy preparing myself for camp. Goodlad is very much my friend and adviser. . . .

"Mr. Goodlad recommended me to his worthy friend Captain Hector Mackay, with whom I live in camp, who advises in everything : he is [a] worthy man.

"Ever since I have been here we have been running about the country after our hero Hyder, who wants to take our great guns that we are getting up to go against Bangolure, a very strong fort, our army being divided ; our army being in the road to Bangolure, and the other division watching Hyder's motions. We want to bring him to an engagement, but he is so artful a warrier he won't let us . . . He has, I hear, made proposals of peace to us, which is at present a secret, it being an uncertainty. . . . It may be well enough for those that have made their fortunes, but as for the subalterns I know not what they will do. This is a life, Sir, that I am contented with and that I like very much, was I not so low on the list, but that is I hope to your certainty of getting me in the Civil list.

"I assure you I meet with a great many friends here. Colonel Campbell is very kind to me ; he wanted me to live with him. He went to Colar sick on account of the ball he received in his body,<sup>(2)</sup> but I fear it will hinder him from taking the field again. . . I need not tell you how much he is beloved here, which I imagine you are no stranger to. Colonel Smith is an exelent man. I often dine with him, as I shall to day. He is a man, which no one is unless he is sensible of feeling. How much my father is mistaken [in] the objection he had against my being in the army, that I should be more exposed to bad company. Here is, [I] own, good and bad, and very good genteel young fellows : therefore if I keep the bad company it is my fault.

"I wrote to my brother<sup>(3)</sup> at Bengal, but whether it will go safe I know not, as he is not at Calcutta. . . I had a letter from Tom Palk<sup>(4)</sup> the night I got to camp, who is with Captain

(1) Colar (Kolār) is 200 miles due west of Madras.

(2) Donald Campbell received a wound at the siege of Madura in 1763, which troubled him for years.

(3) Robert Palk, jun.

(4) Lieut. Thomas Palk.

Madge. . . . I hope that Mrs. P. is well and my little cousins. . . I remain, my dear Sir, your sincere and affectionate nephew

“ T. PALK.”

[P.S.] “ Since I wrote you the former. I told you how happy I was with Captain Mackay, but since [then] I have lost him, lost him; he is no more. In attempting to escalate the Fort of Malwagle<sup>(1)</sup> on a high rock, that is an impossibility to perform ever. We took it by stratagem from Hyder, as did he again, but 'tis imagined by bribery; but, however, Colonel Wood<sup>(2)</sup> marched there immediately and ordered a party to storm it if possible, and my dear Hector would go a volunteer, and was obstinate enough not to be advised to the contrary; but he got on the wall twice and [was] knocked off, and making the retreat my friend, whom I could venture to call so, was killed. What his friend Goodlad suffers is unaccountable, whom he made his executor.”

[*Holograph*, 6 pp., 4to.]

[No. 56.]

MRS. KITORIA SLOPER<sup>(3)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1768, October 4th, Cuddalore.—Sir, I have received from your attorneys sums of £903 8s. 3d. and £454 19s. 5d. in pagodas at 7s. 8d. as interest on the children's legacies from January, 1767, to April, 1769, for which I and the other guardians have given bills in your favour on Messrs. Boehm & Sons, merchants, of Size Lane, in whose hands Major Brownrigg has deposited a declaration of trust. “ You have greatly obliged me in your assistance and has restored peace and gladness to my heart . . . I am also greatly obliged to Major Brownrigg for so honourably discharging his trust . . .

“ KITORIA SLOPER.”

[*Autograph*, 1 p., flscp.]

(1) The hill fort of Mulbāgal, 17 miles east of Kolar, was taken by stratagem in June, 1768, by Captain Richard Mathews, disguised as a native officer. Haidar recovered the place three months later. He was attacked by Colonel Wood, who retook the lower defences on the 3rd October, but failed in an attempt to escalate the rock. A battle followed on the 4th, in which Wood narrowly escaped defeat.

(2) John Wood was commissioned Ensign in the Company's Europeans in 1753, and held the rank of Captain five years later. He served as Major at the second siege of Madura in 1764 under Colonel Charles Campbell. In 1767 Lieut. Colonel Wood moved from Trichinopoly to join Colonel Joseph Smith against Haidar Ali, and was present at the battle of Trinomalai. In 1768 he commanded an independent division in the Bāramahāl, where he met with remarkable success. On the summons to Madras of Colonel Smith, Wood assumed chief command, but displayed incapacity and sustained such serious reverses that he was recalled. He was tried by court-martial in 1769 on charges of misappropriation of stores and misconduct in the field, and though acquitted by the Court was dismissed the service by Government. The Directors subsequently upheld the acquittal. He married Elizabeth Owen in 1762, and died at Madras in 1774.

(3) Widow of Robert Sloper, a civil servant of 1749, who was Sea and Land Customer at Cuddalore in 1754.

[No. 57.]

MRS. JANE MORSE<sup>(1)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.]

1768, October 9th, Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, Yesterday arrived a packet from Bombay with letters from Europe dated the 27th of May, giving an account of the arrival of the *Hector* with a list of the new Directors; that Mr. Saunders<sup>(2)</sup> had resigned in a pet, and Mr. Sullivan not being in, there is little hopes of seeing Mr. Van<sup>(3)</sup> again in India. I imagin he will therefore forme a plan suitable to his fortune and increasing family.

“The disagreeable disputes Mr. Majendia<sup>(4)</sup> and young Carmichael has had with Captain Jackson has given their friends concern and trouble. However, the attention which Mr. Holland and Mr. Morse has had to both partys has prevented its being brought before the Board, and indeed I think it had been better let alone on all sides. Mr. Majendia came a shore very ill. He found great benefit from the Mount air. They staid here two months, and went to Bengal in a French ship.

“The Directors has sent orders to all their Settlements that all those people that are come to India without their leave should be sent home by the first ship. Young Carmichael and Mr. Cuthbert's<sup>(5)</sup> brother are of the number, and how that affair may be settled at Bengal I do not know.

“I have the pleasure to tell you, dear Sir, your nephew Mr. John Palk<sup>(6)</sup> is well at camp. He seems of a happy disposition and ready to take any advice his friends may give him. . . The Nabob is expected from camp in a few days to live at Lawrence Baug,<sup>(7)</sup> and I hear Mr. Hydro<sup>(8)</sup> does not intend we should go to the Mount. My compliments to dear Mrs. Palk, and I am, dear Sir, your affectionate and obliged humble servant,

“JANE MORSE.”

[*Holograph*, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

(1) Jane Morse, *née* Goddard, became in 1730, the wife of Nicholas Morse of the civil service, who was Governor of Madras when the town capitulated to the French in 1746. She was granted a permit by De la Bourdonnais to leave the Fort prior to its bombardment, but refusing to seek security she employed herself with other ladies in making cartridge cases for the heavy guns. After the surrender she was sent with her husband to Pondicherry. When Madras was threatened by Lally in 1758 Mrs. Morse and her daughter Mrs. Vansittart were despatched for safety to the Dutch settlement of Sadras, but that town having been occupied by the French a few days earlier, the two ladies fell into the hands of the enemy.

(2) Thomas Saunders had been President and Governor at Fort St. David 1750-52, and at Fort St. George 1752-55. *Vide* also p. 70, note 2.

(3) Henry Vansittart, Mrs. Morse's son-in-law.

(4) Andrew Majendie was a Madras civil servant of two years' standing.

(5) Arthur Cuthbert came to India with Admiral Watson in 1754. From 1763 he traded at Madras as a free merchant, and in 1771 became Agent for the Squadron. He married Sarah Hopkins in 1765.

(6) An error for Thomas Palk. John Palk, who was not a nephew of Governor Palk, arrived in India in June 1770.

(7) General Lawrence's garden-house at St. Thomas's Mount.

(8) Sportive for Haidar Ali.



[No. 58.]

CAPTAIN T[HOmas] MADGE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1768, October 16th, Samulcotah.—“Dear Sir, I had the pleasure to receive your favor by Mr. Welshford,<sup>(1)</sup> who forwarded it to me from Madrass, as he was ordered to proceed with some other cadets to join the army under Colonel Smith to the southward.” I have recommended him to friends there, and when the campaign is over I shall apply for his transfer here, as well as that of young Palk unless you have previously secured the latter’s admission to the civil service.

“I wish I could say anything in favor of Mr. Smerdon, or could flatter myself with hopes of being able to do justice to your recommendation in his behalf. But as his behavior is so very inconsistent with the way of life he has engaged on. . . I fear he will never get a commission. He may thank his ill-judging father for his present imbecillity and infatuation. The latter has been the consequence of his morose behavior to and close confinement of the young man to the study of books at hours and times when he ought to have been taught to form his judgement of men, and have instructed himself in their manners; for the neglect of which, notwithstanding his laborious education, his boasted skill in classical learning, he can be deemed no otherwise than a learned block head. The close attachment to study so much disgusted him that now he is left to his own discretion he indulges his inclinations to their utmost scope, some of which are very much to the prejudice of his character and principles.

“The niggardly behavior of his father when he launched him into the world is scarcely credible; for who would imagine a person in his circumstances would have sent his son on a voyage to India with no other allowance to furnish [him] with necessaries for the voyage but the £10 he received at the India House? However, with that sum, and that only, was he hurried aboard the *Clive*, Indiaman, at a very short notice, even after he had declared (as he tells me) his aversion to the way of life he was precipitated into, unprovided with proper cloaths for the country or even the voyage. This unnatural behavior of the father subjected the young man to such mean distresses as quite suppressed the small share of spirit he derived from constitution, as he was driven to the necessity of living on the bare ship’s allowance before he had been three months at sea, which excluded him from the mess and consequently the society of the other cadets . . . and so unprovided was he with cloaths that he was obliged to borrow of his comrades what he was deficient in before he could come ashore at Madrass!

“He ought, however, to have thought his distresses at an end on his arrival in India, as I allowed him whatever money he pretended to have occasion for, and had ordered my agent

<sup>(1)</sup> A cadet. Cf. No. 71, p. 99, note 1.

at Madras to equip him for camp, whither he had been ordered to proceed with some other cadets. On being acquainted with these orders he declared publicly that he would on no account go to camp till he had seen me, and that he had been sent out by you to be under my care, otherwise he would never have come to India. His obstinately persisting in his resolution of not going to camp began to be taken notice of at Madras, which would soon have infallibly ruined him, had not a friend of mine then on the spot . . . advised me to get him to the northward." On this hint I wrote to Mr. Bourchier, who kindly arranged his transfer.

"Since his arrival he has given another reason for refusing to join the army than that the military life is not agreeable to his inclination, and—what is only commendable in his whole conduct—frankly confesses his want of spirit. He is now at head quarters, where" he has already tried Colonel Tod's patience "by his dronish method of life and aversion to improve himself . . . You will at once perceive he will never make a soldier, nor be fit for any other way of life in so licentious, so dissipated a country as India. And if his father has the least share of affection remaining for his son, he ought immediately to send for him home and preserve him from unavoidable ruin and disgrace, which must otherwise be his fate !

"The adopting the cause of our almost friendless military establishment by you, General Lawrence and General Caillaud gives me some faint hopes that the injustice done us by the Directors will not be repeated the next season, as nothing can be more grievous or unmerited. They are themselves pleased to commend the behavior of their military servants on the Coast, whilst they disapprove of the licentiousness of those at Bengal, to check which his lordship was under the necessity of taking another trip to India. And the sending out field officers for that establishment might have been thought necessary by him in order to curb that spirit of dissension he had reason to apprehend was not entirely suppressed. But as our Corps has never been known to have proved refractory, it is really hard we should suffer for the faults of another."

The Company's action in sending us two new majors from England is resented by the superseded captains, and the Madras Board has made no remonstrance. When peace is made with Haidar, Donald Campbell, Wood, Hart and another field officer are expected to retire, and I shall be senior captain for promotion. If I am superseded I must protest by resigning. Having saved about £4,000, I shall be able to clear off my father's debts, "when the allowance of my half pay will soften the pains and infirmities of declining age and render that generally comfortless portion of life at least tolerable."

I will not attempt an account of political matters on the Coast, nor of the operations to the southward, but will only say that "the not pursuing the measures you had lain down at

your quitting the Government, and which seemed so well calculated for checking, if not effectually destroying, the hopes which our old enemies the French promise themselves in a future national war in India with the assistance of the Mysorean, appears very strange to an impartial observer. The French very visibly exult in our want of penetration, and amongst themselves promise the speedy accomplishment of that revenge they in their late despair comforted themselves with—the hopes of reducing us to the same degree of misery we had the good fortune to make their lot in the late war.”

I enclose probate of Captain Cranch's will. The amount hitherto collected of his estate, some Pags. 300, is required to pay off a trust for the relations of a deceased officer. Learning that Cranch's mother is in poor circumstances, I beg you to pay the legacies left to her and her son and daughter in advance of future collections and remittances. “The leaving the principal part of his fortune to a natural child . . . when he knew he had a mother and a lawfull wife who were in want of every thing he could leave them, is what I never expected from the honest disposition of my old friend. As he has made no provision in his will for his wife, she will, I presume, be entitled to a third of what he may have died worth . . .

“I cannot finish this voluminous letter without congratulating you on your getting a seat in Parliament for Wareham,<sup>(1)</sup> nor be singular amongst the joyfull inhabitants of Ashburton in not testifying my acknowledgements for the share you have had in procuring them so valuable a representative as Mr. Sullivan, to whom I could wish to be gratefully remembered likewise.

“The happy delivery of Mrs. Palk and the joy expressed by your wellwishers at Ashburton on your return to your native country gave me that becoming satisfaction I shall always feel on every occasion of your happiness. And that you and Mrs. Palk may long enjoy every blessing which health attended with affluence, and the disposition of making the proper use of it, will never cease to bring you, are the unfeigned wishes of, dear Sir, your truly devoted and gratefully obliged humble servant,

“T. MADGE.”

[*Holograph, 8 pp., 4to.*]

[*Enclosure.*]

Copy of Probate of Will of Lieut. Peter Cranch of the Company's service, signed by Charles Smith, Mayor of Madraspatnam, on 12th April, 1768, together with copy of Will of Lieut. Peter Cranch, of H.M. 79th Regiment, executed at Batavia on 28th August, 1764. Executors, Capt. Francis Du Pont, Lieut. William Fleming and Lieut. Robert McNab, all of H.M. 79th Regiment, and Lieut. Thomas Madge, of H.M. 96th Regiment.

[5½ pp. *flsep.* War seal, defaced, of the Mayor's Court.]

(1) Ashburton was represented by Robert Palk, from 1767 to 1768 and from 1774 to 1787, and by Laurence Sullivan from 1768 to 1774.



[No. 59.]

LIEUT. THOMAS PALK to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.]

1768, October 24th, Samalcotah.—“Sir, I hope you have duly received my last letter dated from Chicacole, in which I acquainted you of an expedition’s being ordered to march against Hyderabad. We soon returned, as peace was made with the Nizam when we were within five days’ march of his capital. Soon after our joyning Colonel Hart I was appointed his Aid du Camp, in which station I acted a very short time, as the command was taken from him by Colonel Peach, of the Bengall detachment.

“Hyder Ally has been very troublesome ere since, although he has been worsted in every engagement. Colonel Wood has been excessive lucky in his conquests of late: he has taken several of Hyder’s forts, in one of which he put about 6,000 people to the sword; he indeed in general gives them little or no quarter. About the beginning of this month he attacked Hyder’s whole army, which consisted of about thirty thousand horse and foot, with only 450 Europeans and three thousand sepoys. The action lasted five hours, when Hyder was obliged to retreat, leaving in the field about 2,000 (thousand) foot killed, 100 (hundred) horse, and several elephants and camels. On our side were killed Captains Villiers Fitzgerald<sup>(1)</sup> and Hector Mackay, 2 ensigns and 63 private killed and wounded, and about 250 sepoys killed and wounded.

“About two months since, on an alarum in our Morattoo camp, Captain Gee, who was Aid de Camp to Colonel Smith, was ordered to see what was the matter; but the Morattoes, imagining him to belong to Hyder Ally cut him to pieces.<sup>(2)</sup> He is greatly lamented . . . He married Miss Carter about 6 months before his death.

“Cousin Thomas arrived some time since, but I have not as yet had the pleasure of seeing him . . . as he is at present with Colonel Smith. He acquaints me by letter that he left all friends in Devonshire well . . . He seems to like a camp life very well, and says most of your friends behave excessive kind to him. Young Mr. Smerdon was with us at this place (for a few days) about 2 months since, but is at present at Ellore under Lieutenant Colonel Tod’s command. I am sorry to acquaint you that his behaviour has been very indifferent since his arrival. I shall defer giving any account of him, as Captain Madge tells me he intends writing you a long letter concerning him, and another to Mr. Smerdon to advise him to send for his son home . . .

(1) Captain Robert Villiers FitzGerald distinguished himself at the attack on the hill-fort of Kistnagiri in 1767, and was killed at Mulbāgal in October, 1768.

(2) The Marathas here mentioned were a contingent of mercenaries under Morāri Rao, Chief of Gooty, engaged by the British after the defection of the Peshwa’s army. Haidar’s cavalry made a night assault on their camp on the 22nd August, and Morāri Rao ordered his troopers to remain on foot and attack all mounted men. Captain Gee galloping up from the adjacent British camp to investigate, was mistaken for a Mysorean and cut down.

"I received a letter from cousin Robert about a month ago. He is still third in Council at Cossimbuzar. He acquaints me that Suraja Dowla <sup>(1)</sup> is on the point of breaking out with the Company again, and that he has an immense army now in the field. It is also thought that the Nizam will not keep to his treaty long, for which reason Councillor Whytle <sup>(2)</sup> is ordered on an embassy to Hyderabad to endeavour to prevent Hyder Ally's bringing him over, which it is conjectured would be the case unless Mr. Whytle settles matters . . .

"There are three field officers and three captains arrived this season: one of the majors is dead since his arrival. It is reported several of the field officers intend leaving the country as soon as the war with Hyder Ally is at an end.

"By letters from my mother and uncle this season they inform me of their having seen you at Ashburton soon after your arrival, [and] of your kindness in promising to send my brother <sup>(3)</sup> out as soon as of a proper age . . . Be pleased to make my respects to Mrs. Palk, and to Mr. Palk <sup>(4)</sup> and his spouse at Ashburton. I remain, with due regard and esteem, Sir, your most obliged and devoted humble servant,

"THOMAS PALK."

"P.S. This last engagement with Hyder Ally is said to have been the warmest contested action that has happened since General Lawrence appeared on the plains of Thichanopoly: by which Colonel Wood has gained great honour."

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 60.]

GEORGE PURNELL to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1768, October 27th, Fort St. George.—Sir, I could scarcely expect replies from you to my applications of February and April, 1767, but letters received from the correspondents of Mr. Morse's house show how greatly I am indebted to you. "I am likewise informed by Mr. Morse of the kind pains you was at, relating to my being fixed in it, which renders me so greatly obliged to you that I want words to express my most gratefull thanks. . . ." If I may make one more request it is that you will favour me with a recommendation to Mr. Du Pré . . . .

"GEORGE PURNELL."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 61.]

NIC[HOLAS] MORSE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1768, October—, Fort St. George.—"Dear Sir . . . My letter wrote you the 1st of August . . will let you know the situation of

(1) Shuja-ud-daula, Nawab Vizier of Oudh.

(2) John Whitehill, a member of the Madras Council.

(3) John Palk.

(4) Walter Palk, brother of Governor Palk.

affairs at that time, and I wish I could now say that Vengalore had been attacked, but yet the siege of that is not begun. The getting up the heavy cannon, ammunition and other matters have taken up all this time, and Hydro Naigue trying every thing to save his capital. Colonel Wood lately engaged him in battle for several hours, and 'tis said killed on his side eight of his principal officers, 400 horses and one thousand men. The English loss was 4 officers killed, 5 wounded, 20 Europeans and one hundred sepoys. Some days ago he sent an agent to the camp, perhaps only to amuse till his horse that he had sent for from Biddanore came to him, and who were in the action with Colonel Wood. I believe the Gentlemen would come into any honourable proposals for settling matters with Hydro, as the war is expensive, and attended with much trouble, and injurious to the revenues; and his horse may make sad ravages in the country, which desperation may drive him to. It will be that only that will put him on sending for the Morattas to assist, for he is jealous of them, and would rather chuse to have none near him; and we may wish that those locusts may not appear in the Carnatic. The Nabob has been much out of order of late, chiefly, I believe, owing to vexation of mind . . and he has had a large share of it since 1750. He remains yet in the camp, but [it is] uncertain if he will stay long there or come to Velloor.

“I find that Lord Clive's friendship for Mr. V.<sup>(1)</sup> was but of a short continuance. He, it's said, is much recovered, and probably is with you at London before now to try at some thing or another, for he can never rest. His behaviour to Mr. V. has not been suitable to the professions he made, and it would have been more honourable to have not made them when he knew what he had underhand done to hurt him.

“Letters overland from London of the — May bring advices of the election and a list of the Directors chosen; Mr. Bolton,<sup>(2)</sup> Chairman, Sir George Colebrooke, Deputy, &c., and Mr. Saunders<sup>(3)</sup> quitted. This seems to have not been expected, nor is it said how it has happened. We must wait to know how these gentlemen stand affected to Mr. V., or if there is any likelihood of his coming abroad. It was mentioned in a letter that came by the *Grenville* that Mr. V. had desired a General Court to be called on the 8th of April, but we are strangers to what was done there on that day with regard to him. It is publickly talked in town that the Gentlemen at home do not approve of the war with Hydro, or the connection with the Subah of Golcondah.

“Capts. Johnson and Paine have had my advice in regard to the disposal of their adventures . . . So many ships, and all bringing the same articles, overstocked the market. How-

(1) Henry Vansittart.

(2) Henry Crabb Boulton, Chairman in 1768.

(3) Thomas Saunders, Deputy Chairman in 1767.



ever, considering all things, they have fared as well as could be expected . . . Mr. Helling delivered me the garden seeds, as Mr. Carmichael did the broad cloth . . . Mr. Helling is in a way to soon get the command of a vessel by the help of Mr. Johnson, and seems a very deserving person. I hope the accounts of the House will be ready to send you by the next opportunity. Mr. De Fries<sup>(1)</sup> has not kept up to his repeated promises to finish them . . . There was no ship to Manilla this year, not is there likely to be one the next, nor till it is known what treatment the ship is to meet with . . .

“ Captain Mackay being killed in the storming a small fort on a hill, your nephew will be recommended to some other person.

“ There are orders from Europe to endeavour to get in the Nabob's debt to the Company, which by the war is greatly enlarged. The creditors have agreed, on the Governor and Council's pressing instances, to lend them upwards of 200,000 pagodas; but I imagine they can do no more, as the want of money is very great, and some have their all there, and perhaps others somewhat more. Persons are not a little uneasy on this occasion, and desirous of getting what they can; and it would be very hard upon many to wait for years to get in their money, which is secured to them under the strongest obligations and when the Company's then debt was in a fair way of being cleared in that period . . .

“ The diamonds now sent are esteemed here to be about 4 to 5 per cent. better in quality than what went on the *Egmont*, and the Association has been of some service to the giving a check to the bringing in goods of an inferior quality. Nilcantaker has not been so forward as we could have wished in furnishing us for this ship. . . .

“ NIC. MORSE.”

[*Holograph*, 6 pp., 4to.]

[No. 62.]

ROBERT PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN GOODLAD.]

1768, November 1st, London. Received 18th May, 1769, per *Lioness*.— “ Dear Billy, Your two last letters are of the 21st September and 6th November [1767], and we have since in some measure been relieved from our anxiety by some success against Hyder Aly, and the return of Nizam Aly to our alliance. This I hope will enable you sufficiently to lower Hyder Naig, and prevent his being troublesome in future.

“ Being but just returned from Devonshire, I have not lately seen Mrs. or Miss Goodlad, but I hear they are well. I have succeeded no better than last year in the consignment way. The trade is become so bad that they all talk of withdrawing

(1) John d'Fries, who later succeeded to Morse's business and established the firm of Pelling & De Fries.

their concerns; therefore be careful how you meddle with diamonds, for in general they will not now bring seven shillings. . .

"Your militia<sup>(1)</sup> no doubt was admirably appointed, well disciplined and well commanded; but with such light infantry as James Bouchier, Jos. Smith, yourself and Troutback<sup>(2)</sup> should have marched out to the enemy and given them a fright, of which they would have been very susceptible; but I suppose you were taken by surprize, and they were too quick in their motions.

"Mr. Sullivan<sup>(3)</sup> would not be dissuaded from trying his luck once more: the lists of Proprietors will be published in a few days, and then, if I mistake not, he will see clearly that, with all the split votes<sup>(4)</sup> the Dutch could furnish, he has not the least chance; and I shall be glad to see an end to all contest.

"Nancy and Lawrence are well, and a little girl<sup>(5)</sup> [was] born the first of this year. My nephew Tom being appointed a Writer, I desire that you and Stone<sup>(6)</sup> will take him under your management and endeavor to qualify him for a good Company's servant. I forgot to say to his Honor the Governor that the General desires he will favor and protect Mr. Ballard, who went out a Cadet in the same ship with Mr. Alexander. I am ever, dear Billy, your affectionate and sincere friend,

[*Holograph*, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp. *flscp.*]

"ROBT. PALK."

[No. 63.]

ROBERT PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN] GOODLAD.

1768, November 22nd, London. Received 31st May, 1769, per Mr. Cockrane.<sup>(7)</sup>—"Dear Goodlad, The friends of the bearer, a son of Lord Dundonald, having desired a recommendation, what greater service can I render him than to desire you will take care that he is well instructed in his duty to the Company, which is the only method to contribute to his future success? . .

"Your sincere and affectionate friend,

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

"ROBT. PALK."

(1) Embodied in September, 1768, when Haidar's horse raided the suburbs of Madras.

(2) Samuel Troutback, born in 1700, was boatswain of the *King George* when that ship was wrecked near Sadras in 1721, after which he became a free merchant at Fort St. George. He married Susanna Morgan in 1726, and died in 1785, leaving the bulk of his property to St. John's Charity School, Wapping, where he had been educated. Legal difficulties resulted in the bequest passing to the Crown.

(3) Laurence Sullivan.

(4) Each holder of £500 and upwards of India stock possessed one vote in the Court of Proprietors, which elected the twenty-four Directors. To increase their voting power it was the practice for large stockholders to split their holdings into blocks of £500 and transfer them nominally to friends, retaining a call on their votes, which were termed split-votes.

(5) Catherine Palk.

(6) John Maxwell Stone, Secretary in the Military and Political Department.

(7) The Hon. Basil Cochrane, fifth son of the 8th Earl of Dundonald, entered the Madras civil service at the age of sixteen. He filled various minor appointments and was engaged in private commercial undertakings. In 1800, when Military Paymaster, he completed a canal on the west side of Fort St. George, which bears his name.

[No. 64.]

ROBERT PALK to W[ILLIA]M MARTIN GOODLAD.

1768, December 5th, London. Received 27th July, 1769, per Mr. Phipps.—“My dear Billy, The bearer is a son of Mrs. Phipps, who is a near relation of Mr. Aldersey’s, and on that account I am sure you will be very happy to shew him your hospitality during his stay at Madras; and I desire you will introduce him to Mr. Bourchier and all my friends, that he may pass his time agreeably while he stays with you . . . I am, dear Billy, most affectionately yours,

“ROBT. PALK.”

[Holograph, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 65.]

GEORGE VANSITTART to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1769, January 5th. On my way from Calcutta to Midnapore.—You will have heard of Plowman’s<sup>(1)</sup> unexpected death. I went to Calcutta to adjust our business, and made it over to Darrell<sup>(2)</sup> and Hollond,<sup>(3)</sup> with whom I have entered into partnership for commission business only.

I did not before mention “that your nephew<sup>(4)</sup> had involved himself the deeper in his scrape by agreeing with the other Cossimbazar gentlemen to destroy his Bengal accounts at the time they were demanded from him by the Committee of Inquiry. This, however, was the case; and this being considered, the Gentlemen of the Council have, I think, acted towards him with all the lenity which could be expected. Upon his delivering to them a just account of his profits, and acknowledging the impropriety of his conduct, they have allowed him an emolument of 15 per cent. upon the prime cost of the materials in consideration of trouble, risks and charges, and they have continued him in the service with only the restriction that he shall not be employed out of Calcutta till the Company’s pleasure be known. It must now be your care and his other friends’ in Europe to get his pardon confirmed and compleated. Mr. Verelst promises that both in his publick and private letters he will write strongly in his favour.<sup>(5)</sup> The prime cost of the materials which he provided was about a lack of rupees; his profits about 60,000. I look upon Alexander<sup>(6)</sup> to be the person to whom he is principally obliged for escaping so well . . . ”

I am ordered on “deputation to Janoojee, the Moratta Chief

(1) Henry Plowman, Vansittart’s partner in private business.

(2) Lionel Darell. *Vide* No. 54, p. 80, note 1.

(3) William Hollond was a Bengal civil servant of 1767.

(4) Robert Palk, jun.

(5) *Cf.* Letter from Verelst to Robert Palk, sen., 21 Sept., 1768. (*B.M. Add. MSS.* 34,686.)

(6) James Alexander entered the Madras civil service in 1752. He was admitted to Council in 1763, and went home in the following year. Returning to India in 1767 on transfer to Bengal, he served there until 1771. He sat as M.P. for Derry from 1772 to 1789, and in 1790 he was created Earl of Caledon.



at Nagpore," a trip of 400 or 500 cos. Shuja-ud-daula has agreed to a limitation of his forces, and we are now good friends again.

"GEORGE VAN SITTART."

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 66.]

NIC[HOLAS] MORSE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1769, February 28th, Fort St. George.—"By the accident of the *Chatham* being blown out of the road our friends will have been disappointed of having the letters wrote for her so early as they may have been expected. The *Dutton* takes them now, on which ship take passage Mr. Carter, Mr. Calland and family, Mr. Sadleir, Mrs. Donald Campbell and children, Captains Adair and Drilling.

"I have ballanced the books of our concerns, and I send you a copy of the journal. There are only two or three articles to be accounted for: one the Nabob's debt, which is paying off yearly. Part of what has been paid the last year has been lent the Company at the desire of the Governor and Council. . .

"Mr. Plowman's death you will hear [of] by the ships from Bengall. Mr. George has taken for partners Messrs. Darell and William Hollond. It's said he is going on an embassy to Jonadee,<sup>(1)</sup> Chief of the Morattoes.

"There has been a great scarcity of money at Calcutta, which has been a great hindrance to business and to the making regular payments, whilst the French and Dutch abound. The difficulty of getting money home furnishes the former with such large sums that their Company is enabled to carry on their affairs with great advantage, and private persons also enjoy the benefit. They are erecting their fortifications at Pondichery by order from France, to which they give much attention. . . "

Mr. Churchill, who brought letters of recommendation from you to Mr. George Vansittart and myself, delayed proceeding to Bengal, and asked for an advance of money. I gave him £100, but declined a further application. Mr. Vansittart writes that he has directions to pay Mr. Churchill £100 only per annum.

"I send you a box containing 40 of St. Ignatius's Beads,<sup>(2)</sup> which I have desired Mr. Carter to put in his chest. They have been lately found to be a very good remedy for the bite of a rat, both inwardly and outwardly made use of.

"Your nephew, Mr. Thomas has been appointed an ensign for some time, and is well esteemed in the army. . .

"You will by this ship have a very disagreeable account of the state of the war with Hydro Naigue. As I am only a

(1) Janoji.

(2) St. Ignatius's Beads, which Morse calls "Beads," were the seeds of a plant of the Philippines resembling *nux vomica*, and were used by the natives in cases of cholera. In November, 1767, Palk had written to James Bouchier to ask for St. Ignatius's beans. (*Brit. Mus. Add. MSS.* 34,685.)

bystander I shall not take upon me to write on the subject, but leave it to Mr. Bourchier to write, and Mr. Carter to tell you how matters stand. They will no doubt occasion much uneasiness at home, as they do abroad, to find the country so terribly harrassed and distressed by the ravages of this man daily committed in one part or other of the country. I wish the advices by the *Thames* may be more agreeable . . .

“NIC. MORSE.”

[*Holograph*, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 67.]

CERTIFICATE of the President and Council of Fort St. George.

1769, February 28th, Fort St. George.—That the sum of Pags. 272, 26 fa, 15 ca. has been received into the Company's cash from Mr. Reynold Adams<sup>(1)</sup> on account of the estate of Captain Peter Cranch, deceased. Signed by CHS. BOURCHIER, JOS. DU PRE, JOHN CALL, AR. WYNCH, JOHN ANDREWS, GEO. STRATTON, GEO. DAWSON, JAS. BOURCHIER, RICHD. BRICKENDEN, GEO. MACKAY.

[1 p. *flscp.*]

[No. 68.]

RAMA KISNA to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1769, March 9th, Fort. St. George.—Diamonds to the value of Pags. 350,000 go by this ship, the *Dutton*.

“This war of Hyder Ally has been very unfortunate to the English, and caused great troubles and anxiety to the inhabitants, [so] that if we don't soon have a peace to relieve us from our miserys, we shall be very miserable indeed. I pray for the continuance of your protection towards me and old Mooperala Kisnia's son Cassavaia . . .

“RAMA KISNA.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., *flscp.*]

[No. 69.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.]

1769, March 11th. Fort St. George.—I have received your letter by Mr. Helling. Johnson and I have procured for him the command of a fine ship now building at Bandermaalanka.<sup>(2)</sup> I hear good reports of your nephew Thomas, who has now held a commission for some months. He will not readily resign military for civil duties, but will nevertheless follow your wishes.

“I am almost affraid to say any thing on politics, but still I

<sup>(1)</sup> *Vide* No. 112, p. 141, note 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> A port on the Godavari coast, where abundant supplies of teak were available.

cannot entirely be silent. You will hear from all hands how truly unprofitable the war has proved to us, and that indeed we were never before so handled. Excepting Cuddalore, Trichenopoly, Madura and Pallamcotah, we have not a foot to the southward of Pondicherry that we can call our own : all the country to the southward entirely laid waste ; not an hut or inhabitant to be seen for sixty miles together, so terrible have been, and still are, the devastations of the enemy's horse. The Coimbatore country we once called our own, but alas, every fort surrendered again on the first summons, and we are in a much worse situation than ever we were. I dare not touch further on these matters or on our real situation at this time : you will in all probability be fully informed of it from other quarters, and my silence is therefore the more pardonable.

"Our friend Mr. B.<sup>(1)</sup> will most probably return to England about this time next year, as heartily sick of his station as ever man was. He has indeed been truly unfortunate, for his government has been attended with nothing but the most untoward circumstances. I feel for him most sincerely, and tremble at the consequences which our ill success may bring on him. He would have been much happier if the same ship had carried you both to England, and for his sake I really wish he had then quitted us ; for I cannot believe that his circumstances will have much benefitted, and I am sure his mind would have been much more at ease than it can be after the change which has happened in the Company's affairs under his administration . . . . I know no man who ought to hug himself more than you, for surely never was there a less ruffled Government than when the reins were in your hands.

"I have very little to say to you on the score of news. Pinke<sup>(2)</sup> died a martyr to the bottle the beginning of January. George Smith is married to Aurora<sup>(3)</sup> ; James Taylor<sup>(4)</sup> to Miss Phillips.

"The war has been truly fatal to our officers. The flowers of our army have been untimely cut off, those indeed who might justly be called so. Alas ! my dear friend, how can I tell you what I have suffered on this occasion ! My invaluable friend, poor Hector Mackay, is no more. It is impossible to express to you how much I valued him, or what I feel at this time at the loss of him ; which you also have reason to regret, as I had placed your nephew under his tuition, and he really took all the care of him that he could of his brother. Captain Gee (who married Miss Carter), and Captain Villiers Fitzgerald, with many others, have fallen in the same cause.

"We all wish most heartily for peace. Trade is exceedingly dull : the Nabob's payments to his creditors at an end, and in short, in short, we are in a situation by no means pleasing . . .

(1) Charles Bouchier.

(2) Thomas Alured Pinke, a free merchant.

(3) Margaret Aurora Munro.

(4) James Taylor, a civil servant of 1761, married Ann Phillips.



“Carter<sup>(1)</sup> Sadleir<sup>(2)</sup> Mrs. Campbell,<sup>(3)</sup> Calland<sup>(4)</sup> and family return to England by this ship: of the last you will hear more from Mr. Bouchier . . .

“W. M. GOODLAD.”

[*Holograph*, 4½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 70.]

ROBERT PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN] GOODLAD.

1769, March 17th. London. Received 3rd September.—  
“My dear Goodlad, In future I promise you to be a much better correspondent, which hitherto has not been the case. Interruption and dissipation are so much in fashion that it has been difficult in this great town to keep an hour to oneself. I have many friends besides yourself to whom I ought to make a better apology.

“I have now before me your letter of the 12th May,<sup>(5)</sup> which conveys to me the true state of affairs, that state which I always dreaded. To carry on such a war required the greatest abilities in the commanding officer, and the highest consideration in laying in provisions. Nizam was too long and too much distressed on his march to be of any service to the alliance; and unless he could have been supplied with money, the consequence must be his getting it from Hyder Naig. I hope the ship which we daily expect will give us better advices. If we could have kept our ground at Onor, I should have concluded the war in a fair way of being finished. You have attributed our want of success to the right cause. Many here are of the same opinion, but those who have it only in their power to remedy that defect do not chuse to show the world that they could be mistaken.”

The Governor and Mr. Call have both incurred the displeasure of the Directors. When they leave for England, I request that Wynch, Morse and yourself may take their places as my attorneys. Withecombe's money you should remit to me as soon as you receive it. The Company would like to cut off the resources of the Nawab's creditors, but legal opinion is against them. They have appointed a secret Committee of Inquiry, which will be occupied two or three years, by which time I hope most of the Nawab's debts will be paid. “You may remember that I always shuddered at the Nabob's debt, and I shall be happy when I hear the creditors are out of danger.

(1) Roger Carter, late Governor of Bencoolen, Sumatra.

(2) Anthony Sadleir entered the Madras civil service in 1760. As Resident of Ingeram he was suspended for oppressing the natives, but was reinstated. Admitted to Council in 1780, he delivered so trenchant a minute on the inaction of Whitehill's Government during Haidar Ali's invasion of the Carnatic that he was again suspended. In 1783 he was employed on missions to the French at Cuddalore and to Tipu at Mangalore. In the following year he quarrelled with Lord Macartney at the Council table, and fought a duel with him in which the Governor was wounded. Sadleir was ultimately transferred to Masulipatam, where he died in 1793.

(3) Mrs. Donald Campbell.

(4) John Calland. *Vide* No. 34, p. 55. note 3.

(5) No. 52, p. 77.

“Inclosed is a letter to Moodu Kisna,<sup>(1)</sup> who is desired with you to settle a certain affair. Royala Punt,<sup>(2)</sup> formerly Renter of St. Thomé, Devecotah, &c., says he was turned out soon after my departure, and wants some presents which he made for that reason to be returned. I never in my life asked any man for a present, and those he gave me were so large that indeed they astonished me, viz., one thousand pagodas when he rented Munnimunglum from the Nabob’s manager, one thousand when I came to the Government, and, long after he had taken the above farms for five years, I think six or seven thousand more—Moodu Kisna knows which. Of the latter sum I am willing to return him so much back as was unexpired of his term, dividing the latter sum into five; but this must be done in a judicious manner, and that nothing of it may ever transpire. In short, more or less I leave it to you and Moodu Kisna to settle on any terms confidentially, and to receive the amount from my attornies, to whom I have mentioned it but very slightly. I am sure during my whole government I never sought or intended to oppress any man. And yet I apprehend some European must have forced him to make this demand.

“I recommend my nephew Tom to your care and protection. The Directors promised he should be the first on the list, and they made him the last. In this country all is party, and poor Tom is involved, though his uncle never meddles further than to give his single vote . . . All our little family, one boy and two girls, are very well. I am still unsettled both in town and country: indeed in this country it requires good management to live within bounds . . . I am ever, my dear Billy, your sincere and affectionate friend,

“ROBT. PALK.”

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 71.]

[CAPTAIN] THOMAS MADGE to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1769, May 16th. Ellore.—For the last six months anarchy and confusion have reigned in the Carnatic. “As the communication betwixt our Settlements has been so often interrupted by Hyder’s cavalry, together with the great care taken by the Gentlemen at Madrass to prevent any correspondence to be carried on concerning the situation of public affairs, most people chose not to write at all rather than run the risque of their letters being stopt and opened at Madrass, or even of being suspected

(1) Muttukrishna Mudali succeeded ‘Paupa Braminy,’ jun., in 1749 as Company’s Interpreter. In 1754 he accompanied Palk and Vansittart to Sadras as Translator to their Mission, and detected a fraud in connexion with the grants which Dupleix alleged had been made to him by the Subahdar of the Deccan. Muttukrishna was Governor’s Dubash to Mr. Pigot and his successors, and in 1766 founded and endowed the Town Temple of Madras which replaced ‘the great Jentue Pagoda’ of 1646. In 1771 he drew up a report on the history of the Maravars from 1500 A.D. He died in 1792.

(2) Elsewhere described as Rajah Pundit.

the authors of any disagreeable though true reports of affairs that might transpire in the country."

On this account I did not send you earlier the enclosed letter of attorney regarding Cranch's affairs. The value of his estate is still uncertain, but the amount of the legacies has been remitted.

My judgment of the conduct of young Smerdon has proved correct. "He had been ordered on detachment with Captain Bellingham<sup>(1)</sup> to attack a small fort in their neighbourhood, when he discovered such uncommon tokens of cowardice as I am ashamed to mention. The day after the fort was reduced (it having been abandoned by the enemy) a report prevailed that a field engagement was soon expected; which so much terrified Smerdon that he immediately waited on Bellingham and told him that he found the air did not agree with him, neither did he by any means approve of a military life; which induced him to demand leave to quit the detachment immediately in order to repair to Ellore (head quarters in the Circars), as on his arrival there he was determined to quit the service! In spite of every argument that could be made use of to dissuade him from so scandalous a step, he still persisted in it, and accordingly left the detachment. On his arrival at Ellore Colonel Tod ordered him to set out for Samulcotah, where I at the time resided, where he advised him to consult with me before he resigned the service. It was with much difficulty he was prevailed upon to make his appearance, and loitered at a small village about 16 coss from Samulcotah five or six days under the most frivolous pretences, till I was under the necessity of threatening to bring him to Samulcotah with a file of men: this brought him immediately. Soon after his arrival he was appointed an ensign from Madrass, a promotion that filled him with the greatest concern, as he assured me he would never take the field again as he was sure he could not support his character as an officer. Accordingly, on my being ordered into the field, Smerdon writes a letter to either Colonel Tod or the Chief at Masulipatam, in which he declares his want of capacity and resolution for the station he had been promoted to, and therefore begs leave to quit the service before he is put to any further trial! On receipt of this letter he was ordered to proceed immediately to Madrass, which, sore against his inclinations, he was obliged to comply with.

"At parting from me he expressed a desire of getting employed as a monthly Writer in the office at Madrass. But as his passion for dissipation, together with an unconquerable aversion to business of any kind, would not allow me to hope he would ever be able to support himself on 10 pags. per month when he could hardly make both ends meet with double the

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(1) Captain Bellingham, who was an Ensign of the Company's European Infantry in 1758, accompanied Caillaud's detachment to Bengal in the following year. In 1769 he commanded a battalion of native infantry in the Northern Circars.



sum, I advised him to think seriously of returning to his friends by the first opportunity. Since his leaving the northward, which was in the month of January last, I have never received a letter from him, notwithstanding he derives at present his sole support from my purse. All that I can learn of him is from the accounts sometimes sent me by a friend at Madrass, who informs me he has been ordered by the Governor and Council to go to Europe by the present opportunity. I have, however, applied to Mr. Bouchier for leave for him to remain at Madrass till the arrival of my uncle's ship, when I shall ship him off immediately. To this the Governor has consented. I am sorry to assure you that he is not indued with one good or even neutral qualification, and what his unhappy father will do with him on his return to England I cannot divine . . .”

Of affairs in the Carnatic you will hear from other sources. “Our reputation at present seems to be at a very low ebb, as we have experienced such a terrible reverse of fortune during the last ten months of the war as has put such an indelible blot on our arms and councils as will require many years’ prudent administration, and as many well conducted successful campaigns, to wipe off before our affairs can be restored to that flourishing condition in which you left them.

“Hyder has been permitted, it is said, to make good his bravado of *granting us* a peace close at the gates of Madrass. He was, according to report, very near it with a very considerable body of horse, having by two very long retrograde marches given Colonel Smith the slip, and got betwixt him and Madrass. He was suffered to remain very near it unmolested, though there were at the time upwards of 300 Europeans and two battalions of seapoys in garrison ready to push out upon him, whilst the army without, who was on the march after him, would soon have been so near (had it not been countermanded) as to have prevented his escape. Peace was however concluded with him notwithstanding his situation; the particulars of which are most of them a profound secret, and by their being disapproved of by the Nabob are not supposed to be much in our favor. He has been gone off for some time to the Mysore country, and the Gentlemen of Madrass are now settling the distribution of the troops belonging to the Madrass establishment in such a manner as to be *in utrumque paratus* should Hyder take it into his head to renew the war and, as he threatened, overwhelm us with Marattas from all quarters.”

The troops in the Circars are to be increased to a brigade. To the south there will be two brigades. As more subalterns will be needed here, I have asked Mr. Call to get your nephew and Mr. Welsford<sup>(1)</sup> included in the number, especially the former, because his friend Mr. Wynch, who has been appointed Chief at Masulipatam, will be able to help him.

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(1) A lately arrived cadet. Cf. No. 58, p. 84.

Our military establishment is going to ruin owing to the assumption of all power by civilians. "Even the Commander in Chief will not very soon have as much authority, independent of the civil power, as a Writer in the office." Mr. Du Pré, who will succeed shortly as Governor, appears to be specially hostile. A recent order prohibits correspondence between military officers and natives unless copies of the letters are submitted to the Presidency. This I consider a hardship. As I have little to expect from Mr. Du Pré, and as my only friend in the Council, Mr. Call, is about to quit India, I think of applying for leave to England. If I should be unable to return with my present rank, I shall purchase a troop or company in the King's service at home.

"T. MADGE."

[*Holograph, 9½ pp., 4to.*]

[*Enclosure.*]

LETTER OF ATTORNEY, dated Masulipatam, 11th April, 1769.

Power of Attorney granted by Captain Thomas Madge, one of the executors of the will of Peter Cranch, formerly lieutenant in H.M.'s 79th regiment and afterwards lieutenant in the East India Company's service, authorizing "Robert Palk of Ashburton in the County of Devon, Esquire," to be his attorney in all matters respecting the executorship. (Signed) T. MADGE.

Witnessed by J[OHN] L[EWIS] SMITH, Chief of Masulipatam, and JOHN WHITEHILL.

[2½ pp. demy. *Wax seal with arms and crest.*]

[No. 72.]

MRS. JANE MORSE to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.]

[Endorsed in Palk's hand.] "Mrs. Morse, 1st June 1769.

Answered 16th March, 1770."

1769, June 1st. Fort St. George.—"I think with you, dear Sir, Mr. Van has done well in the purchas he has made at Black Heath. It is convenient for many reasons; they have a growing family, and oeconomy is highly necessary . . . I am glad to hear Mr. Hastings is coming to succeed Mr. Dupré<sup>(1)</sup> for the good of the place, and we shall have a very agreeable friend . . .

"The painter has not done Mr. Van justice: he has made him look stiff and grave, which I am sure he is not in his nature. There is a strong resemblance of Harry's features, but I think the complexion too dark. Mr. Stonehouse<sup>(2)</sup> has wrote Mr. James Bouchier that he has a brother and sister<sup>(3)</sup> coming out in these ships for Bengal at the desire of Mr. George and his lady, and that he was at a loss how to provide for the young

(1) As Second Member of Council when Du Pré became Governor. Hastings arrived in September, 1789.

(2) Lieutenant Thomas Stonhouse of the Bengal establishment, brother of Mrs. George Vansittart.

(3) Lucia Stonhouse.

lady during her stay here; on which Mr. James made application to me, thinking Mr. George might have wrote to us about it. I told him our Midnapore friends had not, but that he might depend on our receiving the lady into our house and shewing her every civility in our power during her stay in Madrass . . .

“JANE MORSE.”

[*Holograph*, 3 pp., 4to.]

[No. 73.]

JOS[IAS] DU PRÉ to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1769, June 15th. Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, I will not attempt to give you an account of our unfortunate transactions in the course of the war; you will have it at large, I dare say, from some of your other friends, and you will find that, far from depriving Hyder of the power of doing mischief, we have been brought to disgrace. Though our armies, with a good General at their head, may almost command victory over any country enemy who will risk a battle, there are other ways by which we may be overcome. We may be ruined by expence. That the peace we have made will be blamed there can be no doubt; ill success can never share any other fate. I am clear, however, all our circumstances considered, that there was no alternative but that or worse. We must now bend all our endeavors to restore our finances, which are reduced to worse, much worse, than nothing.

“What! is there to be no end to wars and rumours of wars in Leadenhall Street? For my part I have been endeavouring to lay in a small store of philosophy on that subject ever since I was appointed. If I am permitted to stay here a few years, 'tis well, I will do the best I can; and if I should be invited home, why that too will be well, for it will save me an infinite deal of trouble, which I fear, as things are, will procure but little honor and little profit.

“Your nephew, I understand, after having tried and very well endured a fatiguing campaign, seems to prefer the sword to the quill. He has not yet made a decisive choice. He shall have my support in either, for I hear he has merit. Mr. Morse will always find me ready to give all the assistance that I can with propriety in your affairs or his own.

“I hope Mrs. Palk and your little ones enjoy good health. I wish I could send them a few rays of our sun. We could spare them, for I have never known so hot and dry a season. We are burnt to cynders. Mrs. D. sends her compliments; she has lately presented me with another girl.

“Mr. Ballard<sup>(1)</sup>! Thank God he is not here. I should be sorry not to take notice of any one recommended by General

(1) A cadet. Cf. No. 62, p. 91.



Lawrence. I am told that he is a very bad character : he got into some scrape here and fled to Bengal.

"I beg leave to make my salam to General and Mrs. Caillaud.<sup>(1)</sup>

"Have some mercy, I pray you, upon poor America, or you will repent it by and by. Keep off a French war a few years longer if possible, that your affairs in the East as well as the West may be better prepared :—I am speaking now to the Senator.

"I wish you happiness. What can you wish for more !

"JOS. DU PRÉ."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 74.]

NIC[HOLAS] MORSE to ROBERT PALK, Esq."

1769, June 26th. Fort St. George.—I am of opinion that Harry Vansittart's purchase of a house at Greenwich is well judged. His coming abroad again will depend on circumstances. The want of currency in Bengal is affecting both revenue and trade, and the Government there have ordered the coining of gold mohurs. The causes of the deficiency of silver are natural, and little improvement can be expected while the country remains disturbed. I regret the frequent changes in the ministry at home. "Luxury and licentiousness were never at so great a high, and the nation in general [is] much altered for the worse.

"Mr. Bouchier talks of leaving India next January. The appointment of Mr. Hastings next to Mr. Du Pré I find had been determined in the Court of Directors. They are happy in having so worthy and capable a person in their service, as the present state of India requires those of such a character ; for though there has been a peace made with Hydro Naigue, yet there is no dependance on him ; but rather that he might joyn the French on any rupture with them, as it is certain there are connections between them, and it may be apprehended that Sujah Doulah might be ready to make use of any advantage of time and circumstances. The Morattas are powerful and always acting for interest ; and on the whole the English may esteem themselves happy if they can preserve what they have,

(1) John Caillaud arrived in India with a British detachment in 1753, and was commissioned Captain in the Madras Army. He served under Lawrence in Trichinopoly, and from 1755 to 1759 commanded in the Southern districts. During that period he operated against Mahfuz Khan in Tinnevely and Madura and relieved Trichinopoly, which was besieged by d'Auteuil. At the siege of Madras by Lally, Caillaud commanded the field force at Chingleput, and fought a vigorous action at St. Thomas's Mount in February, 1759. Appointed to command the troops in Bengal, he saw active service in Bihar in 1760 and 1761. Returning to Madras, Colonel Caillaud reduced Nellore in 1762 and laid siege to Arnee. In the following year he became Brigadier General, and in 1766 took possession of the Circars, which had been ceded to the British by the Mogul. To placate the Nizam, Caillaud was deputed to Hyderabad, where he concluded a treaty under which the Company agreed to pay a tribute for the new territory. On retirement he settled in Oxfordshire, where he died in 1810.

to do which will require great care and circumspection, and to be prepared. Had a peace been made in September last, the Carnatic would not have suffered in the unhappy manner it has, nor Hydro boasted that it was now his time to do it. The terms are not yet made public, although concluded six weeks ago . . . .

“Mr. Call is far from being well, yet cannot resolve to go to Europe on this ship. He and the military have not agreed, and I think if the Deputies had not been sent it might have been better; at least there would not have been so much uneasiness in the camp. As to the late war, much has been wrote to Europe by the *Dutton*, and as to the peace, there will be a great deal to say by this ship from different hands . . .

“The justices and jury at the last sessions had some disputes: the first sworn in were soon dismissed, and another set sworn in. Messrs. Majendie<sup>(1)</sup>, Benfield<sup>(2)</sup>, and Marsden<sup>(3)</sup> are bound in recognizances of £1,000 to appear at the Court of King’s Bench on Michaelmas Term, 1771.

“The advices by the *Egmont* occasioned the Gentlemen at home to put some treasure on each ship bound to China, which was well judged . . . The supracargoes have liberty to draw for £200,000 on England at 5s. per dollar, and will greatly help persons in their remittances home of their money.

“Your nephew, I believe, has not yet determined about the civil or military: I shall therefore refer you to him for an explanation. He seemed apprehensive that his allowances in the civil might not be equal to the other; on which I assured him that your attorneys would make up that to him, which might be about [Pags.] 12 more to his diet money, the Ensign’s pay being, with the allowance, about 20 pagodas per month; and that I did not doubt but you would hereafter order him some money to assist him in business. I have said much to him on the occasion, and endeavoured to persuade [him] not to miss the opportunity of being in the civil, as what you had obtained for him with some trouble, and as the best way of his getting forward in life. He is a very good lad, sedate and well disposed, and has given much satisfaction to his superior officers, and may do well in either way.”

I have arranged matters with all the correspondents of the House, and shall relinquish business as soon as the accounts are closed, so the next despatch will be from Mr. Hollond and his associates. I am quite tired out, “finding it impossible to satisfy every one. You are sensible of the trouble I have had, and the difficult times I have had to negotiate their affairs in, which others are not. I never kept back any money that could be remitted, and yet find some of them think we have . . .”

“NIC. MORSE.”

[*Holograph*, 6½ pp., 4to.]

(1) Andrew Majendie. *Vide* No. 57, p. 83, note 4.

(2) Paul Benfield. *Vide* No. 78, p. 109, note 1.

(3) Thomas Marsden. *Vide* No. 78, p. 109, note 2.

[No. 75.]

J[OHN] M[AXWELL] STONE to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1769, June 27th. Fort St. George.—“A peace was in April last concluded with the formidable Hyder : I wish I could say that we had compelled him to it. The particulars of all publick affairs you will no doubt have from Mr. Bouchier, whose situation for this long time past has been truly to be pitied. Vexations and disappointments seem to have been his constant attendants, though I am convinced no man could deserve them less if a truly good heart and an earnest desire to promote the Company's interest could keep him free from them.

“Your nephew Tom has been in some doubt whether to continue in the military or accept of the civil service. Indeed I was not surprized at it, as he seems to have a turn for a soldier's life, and during the last campaign, which has been a very severe one, has acquired his share of honor and the esteem of every officer in the army. He has, however, at last determined on the civil, and this day signed his covenants, though not without some reluctance.

“J. M. STONE.”

“P.S.—You will no doubt have heard of the death of our poor friend Griffiths. Mr. Thomas<sup>(1)</sup> and I have the management of his affairs, which, with your kind assistance to him, will I hope turn out a sufficient provision for his children . . . We expect one of them may arrive in India this season . . .”

[*Holograph*, 3 pp., *flscp.*]

[No. 76.]

NIC[HOLAS] MORSE to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1769, June 28th. Fort St. George.—Mr. Bouchier has decided to leave India next January, and I think it will be well if Mr. Call accompanies him. “The times at home and abroad are far from giving that satisfaction persons here have long wanted.” Your nephew has signed covenants as a Writer.

“NIC. MORSE.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 77.]

RAMA KISNA to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1769, June 28th. Fort St. George.—“I heard Mr. Hastings comes out this year for this place to succeed Mr. Dupré in the Government.<sup>(2)</sup> I beg you will recommend me to his protection if I have any business, which is very necessary on account of my village, which you was so kind as to obtain from the Nabob for the use of my Charity Choultry at Cheerecoad, to this time by Mr. Bouchier's favor going on without any interruption . . .

(1) The Rev. John Thomas, Chaplain at Fort St. George.

(2) As Second Member of Council when Du Pré becomes Governor.



“Your old friend Mooperala Kistnaia’s son begs leave to present his humble respects to you and your family.”

“RAMA KISNA.”

[*Holograph*, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  p., *flscp.*]

[No. 78.]

CH[ARLE]S BOURCHIER to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1769, June 29th. Fort St. George. “I am infinitely obliged to you, my dear friend, for many of your most acceptable favors, and for so warmly espousing my cause with the Court of Directors. They did me but justice in believing . . . that I was doing my best for them, as I can with truth say my sole view in continuing the warr was the interest and welfare of the Company; and as the reducing the power of Hyder Allec was a measure strongly recommended by Lord Clive for the security of the Company’s possessions in the Carnateck as well as the Nabob’s dominions—a measure also repeatedly urged by the present Committee in Bengal, and which in my own judgment and of my colleagues here [was] of essential consequence to the Company’s prosperity—I cannot help being vexed that they should think me and some others so culpable in adopting it when there was the greatest probability of carrying our point. I cannot however be surprized that they should be so much out of humor; for accountable as they are now become to Parliament for all transactions, to avoid any reproach they may apprehend, they no doubt will load us with censure; and should we escape it this year we shall inevitably be dismissed the next when they are acquainted how much the scene has changed since the *Egmont* left us, and with the distressful situation the Carnateck, the Nabob’s and the Company’s affairs have been reduced to by the continuance of the warr. I have therefore determined to leave India next January at all events, and hope to be happy amongst you and the rest of my friends in England towards the end of summer if the Directors will let me be at peace there; but as I have reason to believe an ill starr presided at my birth, I have apprehensions that they will give me some trouble after I am got home.

“We have at length happily put an end to the enormous expences occasioned by the warr by concluding a peace with Hyder, who, having led Colonel Smith a dance of near a month, had the address, after drawing him as farr as Villaporum, to slip by him, and making a march of no less than 45 miles the first day, got so much ahead of our army that he reached the Mount three days before they got the length of Vendaloor. On his arrival there he wrote to me that he was come so near to make peace with us himself. In the extremities we were reduced to we gladly embraced the opportunity of opening the Conference again; for the country being entirely at his mercy; our army being incapable of protecting it or bringing him to a

decisive action, and daily diminishing by sickness and fatigue ; the promised succors of horse by the Nabob and Mora Row <sup>(1)</sup> not arrived, nor likely to be for some months, and our distress for money great ; our whole dependance being on the Nabob, who though he promised largely we had doubts of his performing ; and it being also the Company's positive orders to make peace, we were under the necessity of doing it almost at all events. I will not trouble you with a detail of all that passed on the occasion, though I have been very particular therein to both Mr. Rous <sup>(2)</sup> and Mr. Sullivan, and probably you may know from the latter . . . I hope therefore you will be satisfied by my telling you that after five days spent in the most tiresome and vexatious discussions with the Vackeels that were sent in after Mr. Du Pré had been with Hyder one whole day at the Mount, the articles were settled of which you have a copy inclosed. <sup>(3)</sup> Besides which, the Nabob was obliged to submit to consent that all of the Novoyt cast <sup>(4)</sup> who were in the Carnateck should be permitted to leave it if such was their choice. As this article the Nabob thought affected his honor, it was agreed to be left out of the written treaty."

We also agreed, after the treaty was signed, to give up to Hyder some stores at Colar, as we understood from Captain Kelly, <sup>(5)</sup> who commanded there, that the place could not hold out beyond the 10th April. As a fact, it held out until the treaty was signed, and we are therefore holding an inquiry into Captain Kelly's conduct.

"As you are well acquainted with the Nabob's rooted antipathy to Hyder, and how ambitious he is, you will not be surprized that he should be so very averse to our making the peace as he has expressed himself on several occasions. It is, however, very extraordinary that these foibles should so much get the better of his reason as to blind him to his own interest in the highest degree. He saw our united efforts could not prevent the daily ravages of his enemy, and that every hour we delayed coming to an accommodation subjected him and his wretched subjects to the severest losses without the least glimpse of hope that we could find any other means of preventing it than by concluding a peace ; yet he wished it could have been avoided ; would not consent to have his name inserted

(1) Morāri Rao. *Vide* No. 19, p. 33, note 4,

(2) Thomas Rous, a Director from 1745 to 1771, who had been several times Chairman.

(3) Not found.

(4) *Novoyt, Navayat*, a new-comer, from Skt. *nava*, new, implies a Muhammadan of mixed descent. The descendants and adherents of the former Carnatic dynasty, which ended with Nawab Safdar Ali in 1744, were commonly known as Navayats. Some of these adherents, like the family of Chanda Sahib, had been detained by Muhammad Ali, and Haidar, whose mother was a Navayat, insisted on their being granted permission to leave the Carnatic.

(5) Robert Kelly entered the Madras Infantry in 1760, and became Captain in 1765. He acted as Chief Engineer at the siege of Mahé in 1779, and commanded a brigade under Fullarton in 1783. Colonel Kelly died at Arnee in 1790 when in command of the Centre Army.

as a contracting Power ; and, though he promised to authorize us to act for him in making peace for the Carnateek by a letter, we have never yet been able to obtain such an authority from him. He has indeed been so very refractory lately that I have at times had infinite trouble with him, and I am very suspicious he has somebody he places a confidence in that puts false notions into his head, which induce him to act so very differently to what seemed to be his former disposition ; and who knows it may be the author of the curious pamphlet wherein you and I and Call are extolled for being such excellent cooks.

“ The apprehension that the Company will in time take his country into their hands (as has been done in Bengal) to clear off their debt, now no less than  $12\frac{1}{2}$  lacks of pagodas, besides the expenses of the warr amounting to  $14\frac{1}{2}$  laes more (a sum you will be amazed at, and which I fear I shall be hanged for : however, so it is, and I must abide by the consequences) alarms him beyond measure and throws him into the utmost despair. He is nevertheless meditating at times the means to clear off his debt to the Company, and promises to effect it in three years if peace subsists so long. Indeed I suspect he must have a hoard somewhere, as the Company and individuals assisted largely sometimes towards defraying his expenses, during which interval the revenues of the country were collected by him ; and this I am the readier induced to believe from his having at times talked of discharging his debt in even 18 months. Possibly if the Company propose any measures that may be dissatisfactory to him and that may increase the suspicions he has already entertained, he may exert himself and pay off what he owes them. With respect to the charges of the warr, notwithstanding he made an agreement with us, which is entered in Consultation, to bear them all, provided we left the management of the conquered countrys to him and the produce at the time they were so, with all the plunder taken, he now disputes the matter and says his agreement was conditional that we took Seringapatam ; than which nothing is more untrue. We have left this circumstance to the Company’s determination ; and as they had an interest in the warr, which was begun in consequence of our possessing the Circars, they ought in reason [to] take to themselves some portion of the charge of it ; and I think that ought to be at least one third, as the value of their possessions bears about that proportion to the amount of the Nabob’s . . .

“ Hastings’s superceding Call is a mortifying circumstance. Call, however, will go home as soon as he possibly can settle his affairs, but I believe he will not do so before me . . .

“ I wrote you in duplicate by the *Dutton*, which my friend Carter carried, to put one packet on board any ship he might meet with in the voyage. I therein gave you a full account of Calland’s malevolent intentions. What you mention of the letter you received from him and his declarations therein



confirm my suggestions. I hope, agreeable to what I proposed to you, that you have found means to prevent his executing his vile purpose; for in the humor the Directors seem to be at present a hint only from him will be sufficient to awaken all their suspicions, which may occasion such orders as will affect numbers both at home and abroad. Nothing has been done here yet relative to the enquiry ordered last year, as Ruccun ud Dowlah, the Souba's minister, who had the principal hand in concluding the Hydrobad Treaty,<sup>(1)</sup> has been absent; but as he is soon to return there, he will be applied to on the subject. I shrewdly suspect from advices I have seen that further scrutinies will be ordered this year from home, and I wish I may not have trouble thereby.

"Rajahpundit<sup>(2)</sup> is an infamous rascall, and so much involved in debt to the Nabob as well as others that he is now under confinement with the Nabob on that account. I have talked with Moodoo Kistnah and communicated what you desired of me to Goodlad: by the next dispatch I shall let you know what has been resolved on; hitherto nothing, as there has been little opportunity for it.

"It has been with some difficulty your nephew Tom has been prevailed on to lay down the sword. He has been an Ensign some time, and [the] being reduced from 17 pagodas to P. 8 23f. per month was a powerful argument against relinquishing it. He promised to make a good officer, being fond of his profession, but is convinced that his future prospects of advantage are more extensive in the civil than the military. He is a sedate, sensible youth, and much regarded in the corps he belonged to. Could he be assisted a few years with the addition of 10 pagodas per month to his writer's stipend, it would be very acceptable, and little enough to keep him out of debt, as you know . . .

"By the way of China [I] shall find means to make remittances to you my attorneys of at least £30,000 on account of myself and Jim;<sup>(3)</sup> and by the end of next year shall have in England, I hope, with what is already in your hands, about £60,000, the mode of remittance being already secured. How much more we are possessed of I am yet uncertain, but I shall set tight to work as soon as the *Thames* is sailed to settle all my accounts and dispose of outstanding concerns . . .

"I thank you for the house you have purchased for me, which according to Mrs. B.'s description of it must be a very excellent one. I wish the price may be not too great for my fortune; but if it should appear to be so, I imagine I can always have it in my power to dispose of it without much loss.

"Besides the vexation our late troublesome situation gave me, we have had further cause for it from the refractory behavior of a Grand Jury, who treated us so contemptuously

(1) The Treaty of 1768 relating to the Circars.

(2) Elsewhere called Royala Punt. Cf. No. 70, p. 97.

(3) James Bouchier.

on the Bench that we were at length put to the disagreeable necessity of ordering three of them, Benfield,<sup>(1)</sup> Majendie and Marsden,<sup>(2)</sup> to prison because they refused to enter into a recognizance to appear and answer for their misconduct before the King's Bench . . . but which they were released from on signing the recognizance. They threaten us with great damages, which has occasioned us to be very particular in an address to the Court of Directors on the occasion; and I am so much persuaded we have done no more than we can answer for that I am perfectly easy on the occasion. However, I shall be glad if you will make some enquiry into the matter at the India House, and write me a line to meet me at St. Helena in what light the matter is taken at home, as well as any other intelligence that materially concerns me . . .

“CH<sup>S</sup>. BOURCHIER.”

[*Holograph*, 13½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 79.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1769, June 30th. Fort St. George.—“You will learn from other hands in what manner our war with Hyder has ended. Who ever thought that the intended conquerors of the Mysore country would be reduced to make peace at the gates of their own capital! O[h,] my dear friend, how greatly is the face of affairs altered since you left us; instead of a flourishing Investment and full treasury we can scarcely maintain our troops, and are over head and ears in debt. Mr. Bouchier's Government has been truly unfortunate from the beginning: it has not been attended with one favorable circumstance, and he is indeed most heartily sick of it. The Coast and Bay ships threaten us with a chaubuke.<sup>(3)</sup> He is quite prepared for it, and seems fully to expect to return a private gentleman. In good truth I am most heartily sorry for him, and I know so

(1) Paul Benfield was appointed by the Court of Directors to be Civil Architect and Engineer at Madras, where he arrived in 1764. He was employed under Call on the new works at Fort St. George with the rank of Lieutenant, though he was borne on the list of civil servants. In 1769 he resigned his post of Engineer to become contractor for the fortifications of Black Town. This work, which involved the construction of 3½ miles of rampart, was practically finished in 1770. In that year Benfield was dismissed the service for factious behaviour. Though readmitted, he was guilty of disobedience in 1772, and was suspended. Benfield next contracted for the new works at Fort St. George, and was engaged on them until 1776. He lent large sums of money to the Nawab, secured on assignments of the revenues of Tanjore. On the rendition of Tanjore to the Raja by Lord Pigot in 1776 Benfield advanced claims, which produced dissensions in Council and led to the arrest of the Governor. Benfield was suspended by the Directors and recalled to England, but he was eventually restored to the service. In 1781 he was appointed a member of the Committee of Assigned Revenue. He finally left India in 1788, lost his fortune by speculation, and died in Paris in 1810.

(2) Thomas Marsden entered the service as Ensign in 1767. Two years later, as Lieutenant and Sub-Engineer, he was engaged on a survey and valuation of Black Town for purposes of assessment of a fortification tax. He died at Tripassore in 1771.

(3) *Chaubuke*, a castigation from the Directors by the next ships; from Hind, *chābuk*, a whip.

well how anxious he has ever been to act for the best that he is still more to be pitied. If the changes we expect should take place, it will be almost sufficient to deter any one from wishing to become a man of power in these parts, and yet I confess my thoughts turn very much that way. That said pinnacle has certainly many charms, and it is doubtless attended with its uneasinesses; but, take it all in all, it is a desirable station. It is what I do and will aspire to, and what I hope one time or other to attain; but pray tell me, how am I to accomplish it? . . .

"I am apt to think from the conduct of the French that we shall not long continue at peace. Pondicherry is fortifying with all diligence, and 'tis said considerable forces are expected out this year. At Chandernagore too they would fain make themselves secure, and under pretence of a *drain* have dug a noble ditch fifty feet wide and twenty feet deep, and the earth being thrown towards the town forms an excellent fortification. But this, I trust, is demolishing by this time, for if they will not do it themselves, our Gentlemen at Calcutta are determined to do it for them.

"Every thing is quiet in Bengal. You must remember what an enmity subsisted between the King and Soujah ul Dowlah. They are now to all appearance perfectly reconciled, and after paying each other a visit, Soujah has undertaken to place his Majesty on the throne of Delly. They are now at Illahabad, but a circumstance has lately happened which it is thought may delay, if not entirely put off, his Majesty's journey:—Soujah had laid a plan for the assassination of Munire ud dowlah,<sup>(1)</sup> the King's old and greatest favorite. A faithful Coffree<sup>(2)</sup> saved his life by receiving the blow, which cost him his arm, and 'tis thought this may open his Majesty's eyes.

"Our friend Mr. B. showed me that part of a letter from you relative to Rajah Pundat, and we shall soon take that matter into consideration. However, he is so much indebted to the Nabob for the countries he rented, to the Company and to individuals, that a compromise would be of little service to his creditors.

"Your nephew Tom has executed his covenants as Writer, a good deal against his inclination, I assure you, for he seems greatly to prefer a military life: however, I hope to make a good Company's servant of him . . . Lewin Smith and Mrs. Mackay<sup>(3)</sup> leave us by this ship, and are just gone over the surf. The Bouchiers, Call and Ardley<sup>(4)</sup> will get away as soon as they can. Miss Mulkirke is married to Captain Bruce. Barker and Raitt<sup>(5)</sup> died lately. . .

"W M. GOODLAD."

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

(1) Munir-ud-daula was Naib Vizier in 1767.

(2) *Coffree*, a negro, from Ar. *kāfir*, infidel.

(3) Sarah Mackay, *née* Stratton, wife of George Mackay, junior Member of Council.

(4) Samuel Ardley. *Vide* No. 52, p. 78, note 2.

(5) Thomas Raitt was a civil servant of 1763.



[No. 80.]

AB[RAHA]M DE PAIBA to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1769, November 3rd. London.—I have been unable to see you lately to tell you about business done. I sold your diamonds last month to Messrs. Gumperts & Hymans at 7s. 9d. per pagoda, excepting the large stones, which will be disposed of later, and have paid in at Lee & Ayton's £1,100 in Bills of Exchange.

“AB<sup>M</sup>. DE PAIBA.”[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 81.]

ROBERT PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN GOODLAD.]

1769, November 5th. London. Received 1st May, 1770. —“My Dear Billy, Your letter of the 11th March<sup>(1)</sup> recording the unhappy state of affairs on the Coast gives me the most sensible concern and uneasiness. We have gone on from victory to victory without reflecting how the whole was to be preserved and governed, and what fatal consequences a reverse must have involved us in. When Nizam Aly settled with Hyder, certainly we should have done the same. We should then have given all India a strong impression of our power, and probably have secured the Carnateck from future invasions. As it is, I dread and am very anxious for the next accounts.

“Your kindness to Mr. Helling as well as my nephew has been very great. The latter I should rather have continued in the military, but his mother, reflecting on the loss of so many of his countrymen, will not hear of it; and so I suppose he brings up the rear of the Writers, a piece of revenge in Direction which I did not deserve, and owing to those perpetual struggles at the India House, where the parties have for some years been violent to the last degree. At Mr. Vansittart's departure<sup>(2)</sup> a Coalition had taken place, which lasted only a few days, but I still hope it may be renewed; though I know little of the matter, being just arrived from a six weeks' tour into Devonshire.

“On Bouchier and Call's coming away I have desired that Wynch and you may succeed them as my attorneys. I have another copy of the letter from Rajah Pundit, and hope that long ere now a proper gratuity has been made him, as I had rather be at any expence than that any man should say I had done him any injustice.

“Great preparations I find are making to send you every assistance. I am sorry the loss of so many officers makes a reinforcement of them necessary . . . The General and Mrs. Palk remember you must cordially. I am ever, my dear friend, most affectionately yours,

“ROBT. PALK.”

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

(1) No. 69, p. 94.

(2) Henry Vansittart sailed for India in the *Aurora* in September, 1769.

[No. 82.]

GENERAL SIR R[OBER]T BARKER<sup>(1)</sup> to R[OBERT] PALK,  
Esq.

1769, November 19th. Calcutta.—“ Sir, I have had the pleasure to receive your letters of the 21st and 28th of February, 1768, which were delivered me by Messrs. Everet and Fitzgerald. Both these gentlemen are in the Artillery Corps, and are much esteemed by their commanding officers. I have as yet had no opportunity of doing them any service.

“ I hope you and Mrs. Palk have enjoyed a good state of health since your return from India. I beg my compliments may be acceptable to her, and am, Sir, with regard, your very obedient humble servant,

“ RT. BARKER.”

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to.*]

[No. 83.]

GEORGE VANSITTART to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1769, December 3rd. Calcutta.—“ Dear Palk, The *Grafton* brought me a short letter from you without date, but written I imagine in March, and we have since received news overland of my brother's and Mr. Sullivan's success at the April election. On many accounts I rejoice much at this event, but particularly from the hope that his directorship will pave the way for his return to the government of Bengal . . .”

My family has lately been increased by the birth of a second boy, who has been named Edward. We return to-day to Midnapore. I have your letter appointing your nephew<sup>(2)</sup> to be your attorney jointly with me. “The partnership which I have entered into with Darell and Hollond puts it out of my power to act separately from them. Vansittart, Darell & Hollond must therefore represent me as one of your attornies and your nephew as the other.

(1) Robert Barker came to India about 1749. In August 1753, when a lieutenant of Madras Artillery, he was employed as an Engineer at the request of Colonel Caroline Scott, the Engineer-General. Barker's fine draughtsmanship is attested by a plan of Fort St. George executed by him in October, 1753, which is preserved in the King's Library of the British Museum. In 1756 Captain Barker commanded the Artillery with Clive's expedition to Bengal, and served at the battle of Plassey. As Major he accompanied Draper's force to Manila in the same capacity, and was knighted in England for his services. Returning to India, Colonel Sir Robert Barker was posted to Bengal, where he commanded one of the three brigades of the army, and in 1770 he became provincial Commander-in-Chief. He had great influence with the Nawab Vizier of Oudh, and in his interest negotiated in 1772 the Treaty of Fyzabad with the Rohillas against the Marattas. Disapproving of Hastings's army reforms, General Barker resigned the service and went home in 1771. He entered Parliament, was created a baronet in 1781, and died in 1789.

(2) Robert Palk, jun.

"General Smith<sup>(1)</sup> is going home upon this ship (the *Hampshire*). Mr. Verelst<sup>(2)</sup> will follow in a few days upon the *Lioness*. The General has picked up a very large fortune, and as he has abilities and application, and seems disposed to busy himself in India matters, will probably have a good deal of weight when he gets to England. Harry and he were connected formerly : I hope they will be able to agree.

"I am appointed Supervisor of Dinagepore, but I am not to go there till the end of February . . . My Residency of Midnapore is to remain in my possession . . ."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., flsep.*]

"GEORGE VANSITTART."

[No. 84.]

ROBERT PALK, jun., to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1769, December 22nd. Calcutta.—Dear Sir, I enclose bills drawn on Mr. Pybus for £540 on account of the estate of Captain John Adams, which please pay to Mrs. Eleanor Adams.<sup>(3)</sup> I send two parcels of Soucey and Cossimbazar handkerchiefs, one for my father,<sup>(4)</sup> to be forwarded to Yolland Hill, and the other for Mr. Call. If you would like a pipe or two of wine, "I can purchase very good madeira, brought here in '66 by Captain Thomas Rous,<sup>(5)</sup> for 380 Arcot Rupees . . .

"I have nothing to mention regarding my own situation but that I am living in Calcutta at a great expence, unemployed and in great anxiety to hear the determination of the Court of Directors. I hope for success now that Mr. Van, Mr. Sullivan, &c., are in the Direction."

Since I have been in Calcutta I have been treated with much kindness by Mr. Floyer.<sup>(6)</sup> I now stand 24th on the list, and there are only four servants between George Vansittart and myself.

"ROBERT PALK."

"P.S.—24th December. The Governor<sup>(7)</sup> comes to town to-day to resign his government to Mr. Cartier, although he is not certain that he will be able to go before the end of the month."

[*Holograph, 2½ pp., flsep.*]

(1) Richard Smith was a lieutenant on the Madras Establishment from 1753. As captain in 1758 he commanded at Chingleput and in 1760 at Trichinopoly, whence he attacked and seized Karur. In 1761 he resigned and sailed for England, and three years later was appointed by the Directors to Bengal. In 1767 Colonel Smith assumed command of the Bengal Army. He retired at the end of 1769 as Brigadier General. He married at Madras in 1756 Amelia, daughter of Charles Hopkins, sometime Chief at Devikota.

(2) *Vide* No. 54, p. 80, note 8.

(3) *Cf.* No. 211, p. 220.

(4) Walter Palk, of Yolland Hill, Ashburton.

(5) Thomas Bates Rous commanded the *Britannia* on her voyage to Bengal in 1766. He was a Director of the East India Company from 1773 to 1779.

(6) Charles Floyer, jun., entered the Madras civil service in 1755, and in 1767 was transferred to Bengal as Tenth of Council. After a visit to England in 1772 he reverted to Madras. He took an active part in the subversion of Lord Pigot's government in 1776, and was recalled to England. In 1782 he was serving in Guntūr.

(7) H. Verelst.



[No. 85.]

1769, N.D.

## “ESTIMATE

*of the Expences of the Military Establishment on the Coast of  
Choromandel in 1769.*

3 regiments of infantry	}	Pags. 6,99,307 or Rs. 24,47,921.
1 battalion of artillery, 5 companys		
1 troop of cavalry		
19 battalions of seapoys and 7 independent companys		
Lascars in all the garrisons	}	[Pags.] 2,50,000
Of which the Nabob to be charged with		
10 Carnatic battalions of seapoys		
2 independent companies of seapoys		
and a proportion of the lascars in the several garrisons, all which will amount to about		

The Company's annual charge, about Pags. 4,49,307.

[On the reverse]

“*The Nabob's Agreement to pay in discharge of his debt, as follows :*

In ready money by the 20th January, 1770	Pags.	5,00,000
In money or	{	
Soucars <sup>(1)</sup> security		
by ultimo June, 1770	do.	8,00,000
by ultimo April, 1771	do.	10,00,000
by ultimo June, 1771	do.	2,00,000

Pags. 25,00,000

[Unsigned, 1½ p., 4to.]

[No. 86.]

LIEUTENANT THOMAS PALK to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1770, January 12th. Condapillee.—“Honoured Sir, . . . I expected my brother<sup>(2)</sup> out the last season from what my mother acquainted me in her last letter, and the accounts I heard from cousin Thomas at Madrass. The latter informed me there was one of our name coming out on one of the ships. But I was agreeably disappointed, for I think he was then rather too young to set out in the world . . . But even though he had come out the last year in a military capacity, he would not have yet been an officer, for out of the 50 or 60 cadetts that arrived the last season there are not more than 6 or 8 have got commissions . . . I am still a lieutenant, and expect to continue so for some time, as there is now between me and a company sixteen . . .

“Colonel Wood,<sup>(3)</sup> Captains Kelly<sup>(4)</sup> and Orton<sup>(5)</sup> were tried

(1) *Vide* No 20, p. 35, note 1.

(2) John Palk.

(3) *Vide* No. 55, p. 82, note 2.

(4) *Vide* No. 78, p. 106, note 5.

(5) Captain Roderick Orton, when in command of the fort of Erode in December, 1768, was summoned by Haidar to surrender. He went out under a safe conduct to arrange terms, and was constrained by Haidar to sign an order to the garrison to capitulate. He was tried by court martial in 1769 and cashiered.

lately at Madrass by a court martial for some misconduct they were guilty of during the late war with Hyder Ally. The former was, I hear, charged with eight crimes. The sentence of the court is not yet made publick in general orders . . . Most of the 3rd Regiment has been stationed at Ellore ever since peace was concluded, under the command of Lieut. Colonel Tod. He will not remain there long it's thought, as Colonel Hart is expected there very soon . . .

"About 5 months since I was ordered from Ellore with 4 companies of Captain Madge's battalion to the command of this garrison . . . Captain Madge at the same time marched with the remaining six companies and relieved Captain Bellingham from the command of Samalcottah." The latter goes to command the Chicacole Circar.

I have not been able to ascertain what effects were left by Mr. Mould, who "was drowned from on board a vessell in Madrass roads." Mr. Bourchier resigns the chair to Mr. Du Pré about the end of this month. When my brother arrives I shall ask Mr. Call to get him appointed to the 3rd Regiment, now in the Circars. "Captain Madge . . . will inform you this season of young Mr. Smerdon's elopement from Madrass. He took a journey there about six months since on purpose to endeavour to get him home on some of the last ships, but he went off before his arrival there, and has not since been heard of I believe . . .

"Cousins Robert and Thomas are both very well. I keep a constant correspondence with them, and heard from each of them very lately. The latter informs me he has an intention of paying his brother<sup>(1)</sup> a vissit this year with the two Mr. Stonehouses. . . . Be pleased to remember me most affectionately to Mrs. Palk, and to Mr. Palk's<sup>(2)</sup> family at Ashburton . . .

"THOMAS PALK."

[*Holograph, 3½ pp., flsep.*]

[No. 87.]

ROBERT PALK to [his Attorneys at Madras.]

1770, January 23rd. Spring Gardens.—"Gentlemen, The sudden departure of the bearer, Mr. Snelling,<sup>(3)</sup> only gives me time to say that I have received on his account £40, which I desire may be paid to Mr. Goodlad, and that he will advance him from time to time as occasion may require; and if any more should be wanted before he gets a commission, I desire he may be supplied moderately. I must request also that Mr. Goodlad will speak to Mr. Du Pré and Mr. Hastings to send him to one of the out-garrisons under a good officer who will have

(1) Robert Palk, jun.

(2) Walter Palk.

(3) A cadet.

an eye to his conduct, and that my nephew Tom will take care of him during his stay at the Presidency . . .

“ROBT. PALK.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 88.]

WARREN HASTINGS TO ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1770, January 29th. Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, I have received your favor of the 23rd June by the *Lapwing*, and am much obliged to you for your good wishes. A part of these is happily accomplished. All wars are at an end, and if there is not the fairest prospect of the continuance of peace, there is a very hearty inclination to it and a determination to maintain it if possible on our side, which is the best security for it. Our people are yet sore of their late ill success, and are all more anxious to secure the Company’s property than to extend their dominion or retrieve the reputation of their arms. There is certainly some defect, whether in our civil or military system I will not say, which ought to be removed before we engage in new wars, as I do not find that either Hyder Allee’s abilities are of the first kind, or his horse equal to those of Shuja Dowla ; and I believe we have been successful against as powerful enemies, and with less than a fifth part of our present strength.

“A reformation in this point I shall hope for from the abilities and experience of our friend<sup>(1)</sup> and his assistants. To explain the intimation in the beginning of my letter that we had not the fairest prospect of peace, I must add that we have been alarmed for some time past by formidable preparations made by all our neighbours, which have begun to shew their object by hostilities between Mahadebrow<sup>(2)</sup> and Hyder Allee. Negotiations have been formed between them, and seem likely to take place by the payment of a sum to the former for the chout,<sup>(3)</sup> and a further aid, it is said, for an expedition against the Payengaut.<sup>(4)</sup> As the harvest, which has been very plentiful, is almost gathered, I hope we shall be provided both with grain and money to prevent the effects of their ravages if the Marattas should make us a visit.

“It gave me an unspeakable pleasure to hear of the new commission granted to Mr. Van, and to find such a man as Colonel Forde<sup>(5)</sup> joined with him. I cannot say I was so well pleased to see Scrafton’s<sup>(6)</sup> name with theirs, but a further reflexion has reconciled me to it. All parties will be better pleased with the measures taken by the Commissioners than if

(1) Mr. Du Pré.

(2) Mādhu Rao, the Peshwa.

(3) *Vide* No. 19, p. 33, note 1.

(4) *Vide* No. 19, p. 34, note 1.

(5) Colonel Francis Forde, who defeated the French in the Circars in 1758-59 and took Masulipatam.

(6) Luke Scrafton had preceded Hastings as Resident at Murshidabad.



Mr. Van alone, or joined only with his friends, had formed them; and Scrafton is neither illnatured nor hard to manage when he has no troublesome people about him. Forde will, if I mistake not, have a great ascendant over him. He is a reasonable and steady man, and Mr. Van, from his superior abilities and knowledge of the methodical part of business, in which I believe the others are deficient, will certainly take the lead in every thing. I suppose the Commission will last during the period of Cartier's government, and our friend return to his former station. I know no other recompense the Company can make him for his trouble and the odium which the execution of such a trust will unavoidably draw on him. Bengal certainly requires such a ruler. The Company's affairs there have been declining very fast, and for their sake more than that of this Presidency, which stands in great need of such a reforming power also, I am most heartily glad the Company have adopted so wise a plan, the wisest they ever thought of.

"Young Griffiths<sup>(1)</sup> has always behaved very well. He is goodnatured and willing, and his parts such as will mend. He lives with me, and I have put him under Goodlad in the Secretary's office. I hope you will have interest enough to obtain his appointment upon the covenanted list, as I fear there will be strong objections to a public recommendation of him from hence. I had Mr. Bolton's<sup>(2)</sup> promise, voluntarily given, for his appointment if he behaved well. He is now 15 years of age.

"I have lived almost in the Council Chamber since my arrival. I cannot boast of having done much in it, as our attention has been mostly taken up in clearing away the dirt of the late war. It seems to be the fate of the age we live in that all public acts shall be personal; and it has been my hard lot to arrive at a time when the whole Settlement was ready to take fire at every measure of the Government, partly from past discontents and partly from present interest. Among other disagreeable things, the Board were under the necessity of bringing Colonel Wood to a court martial, of disapproving the sentence by which he was acquitted, and of dismissing him from the service. From the great opinion I have of Mr. Sullivan's integrity, I am sure he will applaud the conduct of the Board if he believes it to have been just, and be the first to confirm their proceedings. But as it is possible to be prejudiced when we think ourselves guided by motives of strict justice: as Colonel Wood is a relation of Mr. Sullivan and will take more pains to vindicate himself than others to convict him: and as the proceedings of the court martial are so voluminous as to frighten any man who sets a value on his time from an attempt to read them, I hope, if he has any doubts of the propriety of Colonel

(1) Henry Griffiths, son of the Rev. Charles Griffiths, deceased.

(2) Henry Crabb Boulton, a Director from 1753 to 1773, and three times Chairman.

Wood's dismissal, he will take the trouble to examine the facts on which it was founded, and that you will have so much influence with him as to persuade him to this. My regard for his friendship, and my desire to see the authority of this Government duely supported (and it much wants it) are my inducements for mentioning this, though I believe it unnecessary.

"I beg you will present my compliments to Mrs. Palk and the General, who with yourself have my sincere and hearty wishes. I am, dear Sir, your obliged and affectionate humble servant,

"WARREN HASTINGS."

[P.S.]—"It is necessary to advise you that I secured bills for the amount of my bond to Mr. Sumner,<sup>(1)</sup> which will go by the March ship."

[*Holograph*, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 89.]

THO[MAS] PALK to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1770, January 31st. Fort St. George.—"Honoured Sir, I have now the pleasure to write you by the *Britannia*, Captain Rous,<sup>(2)</sup> who is come down from Bengal to carry our present Governour, his brother and Mr. Call home, all of whom I shall feel much the loss of in many respects, particularly my good friend Mr. Call, who has treated me like a friend, which is rare in this country. I have lived with Mr. C. ever since I gave up the sword . . .

"Since my taking up the pen I have through oeconomy been applying to Mr. Bouchier, &c., to get me to a subordinate [station], and not to stay in this luxurious place . . . but the Governor told me it was your express desire that I should be kept in the office for three years, which is a long while to slave for a scanty eight pagodas a month . . .

"In consequence of Mr. B.'s departure they have made me an allowance of twenty pagodas per month . . . It has been my whole study to live on the little I have, and likewise to be as frugal as possible. It may perhaps, Sir, be made appear to you that I have been extravagant, but my study has been the contrary I assure you." With diffidence I venture to ask you for a loan, on which I shall of course pay you the usual interest.

"I have already began to merchandize. I do not know whether it is through Mr. Call's recommendation or not; I believe not, as my brother wrote long since to me on the subject of sending me consignments. I have accordingly received one from him by the *Britannia* containing three bales of Radnagor raw silk, which he says is a little for a beginning, so I expect

(1) William Brightwell Sumner, who had retired from the Bengal civil service about 1767.

(2) *Vide* No. 84, p. 113, note 5.

more soon, and I intend to apply myself very strickly to business.

“The coming out of the Commissioners in the *Aurora* frigate make[s] every body surprized it seems, as they will have it in their power to turn out and take in as they please. I hope not. If they do, it will be much longer than I imagine before I come to be of any rank who are [*sic*] the youngest servant on this Coast. Had you waited till the last election you might have got me at least at the head of the list. However, a certainty is better than an uncertainty. . . Your most dutiful and most obedient nephew,

“THO. PALK.”

[*Holograph, 4pp., flscp.*]

[No. 90.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [ROBERT PALK. Esq.]

1770, February 5th. Fort St. George.—I send this by the hand of Mr. Call. “You desired me in your letter by the *Duke of Grafton* to give you some account of that wretch Smerdon. I am sorry he should have come here under your recommendation. He stayed here about a month after he arrived, and I believe behaved tolerably well. He then went recommended to Captain Madge and stayed with him about two months, which he spent in drinking, . . &c., &c., what is disagreeable for me to mention and much more so for you to peruse. Captain M. having tried every means and way to make something of him and took an immense deal of trouble, he was obliged to send him down here to Mr. —, I forgot his name; he came a free merchant recommended by you, who had promised to carry him to sea . . ; but instead of waiting on that gentleman he has absconded, and no accounts have since been heard of him . . He squandered away a great deal of money, which he has left for poor Madge to pay, which I believe he will do on account of Mrs. Smerdon’s desire, who wrote him on the subject of lending him a little money, and his coming very bare here; but without ever signing her name to the letter, so that he is in doubt whether he will ever be paid . . .”

If you grant the loan asked for in my last letter, I would place the sum in the hands of my friend Mr. Morse, and be guided by his advice. “Mr. M. begins to be tired of the world: he is settling his affairs, and intends retiring into the country; I imagine to the Mount, as he is building a house there . . .”

[*Holograph, 3 pp. flscp.*]

“THO. PALK.”

[No. 91.]

W[ILLIAM] MARTIN] GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1770, February 6th. Fort St. George.—“We are still in peace, and I hope likely to continue so; though as yet I think it altogether doubtful whether we shall or not. Hyder and



the Marattas are at present disputing the superiority. Some skirmishes only have hitherto happened, though a considerable part of his country has been laid waste by them. Should matters be compromised, I think it hardly to be doubted but the latter will pay us a visit; but their exorbitant demands on Hyder give us some hopes that no accommodation will take place. He has sent to demand our assistance in consequence of the late treaty, and Vackeels from the other party are shortly expected to arrive. If there is a possibility of keeping the mid channel, we certainly shall; at any rate every species of delay must be used without coming to any determination; for it cannot be our interest to espouse the cause of either, especially in our present situation as to cash. It is a most difficult card to play.

“I am exceedingly pleased with the appointment of the Commissioners on many accounts. Such extraordinary powers were absolutely necessary to regulate affairs in Bengal, where by all accounts the expences, as well civil as military, but particularly the latter, have grown to a most enormous degree. The Commissioners, however, have undertaken one task which I most heartily wish they may accomplish with honour—I mean the regulation of our political system. It appears to me to be attended with so many difficulties, and those of such a nature that I much fear they will fail in the attempt. Can any plan be fallen upon for so regulating the system that the three Presidencies may co-operate? I think not.

“Private letters inform us that restoring the Circars is to be another object of the Commissioners’ attention. This there can be no difficulty in executing; but why restore them? The argument, I suppose, is that by keeping them our force is too much divided, and that in case of a rupture with the French such division would expose the whole of our possessions. It has weight, and for that reason our first principle, I think, should be to abandon them in case of such a rupture: but why give up at once a very considerable revenue (they will probably produce this year more than 5 lacks of pagodas, besides Cicacole), and by relinquishing these countries give the French the fairest opportunity they can have of firmly establishing themselves? . . . I cannot persuade myself that the Commissioners will restore the Circars, even though they should have come out with that intention . . .

“I have acquainted you of the transactions of the Select Committee and Nabob’s creditors in my former letters. These matters still continue on a very unsettled footing . . . for the creditors will not rely on the Company for the recovery of what is due to them, and the pressing demands of the Select Committee to have the Company’s debt discharged in preference has prevented the Nabob from making any payments in discharge of his debt to individuals. There are amongst these some turbulent spirits . . . They address the Court by this

ship, and have appointed attorneys to act for them in England. General Richard Smith is at the head of them. Fairfield,<sup>(1)</sup> Calland,<sup>(2)</sup> Affleck, Saunders, and, I think, nine others are in commission with him, but what their instructions are I know not. . . The creditors have hopes that the Commissioners will have it in their power to settle matters to the satisfaction of all parties ; and I most heartily wish it may prove so, since it will relieve the distresses of many, and restore harmony to the Settlement, which we have long been strangers to. At present discontent prevails in every countenance.

"I told you of the Court Martial on Colonel Wood, and expressed my apprehensions that the charge of having appropriated to himself the provisions taken in the Coimbatore country would appear too clearly for the Court to pass it over. I was, however, mistaken, for he was acquitted of every charge, though nine in number. But no sooner was the sentence known than the President and Council dismissed him from the service on a clear conviction that, though acquitted, the charges (or most of them) were proved beyond dispute by the evidence produced before the Court. The matter, as I take it, was thus :—the Court were convinced that several of the charges were proved, but they could not condemn Wood for many things which most of themselves had probably been guilty of, nor disapprove of his proceedings without acknowledging those perquisites to be illegal which they would fain establish as their right. The privileges of a Commander-in-Chief appeared therefore in great measure to depend on the issue of this affair ; and the President and Council found it necessary to assert their authority, and by dismissing Wood convince the whole corps that they would not allow of those abuses, which began to be regarded as dues to the officers in command. I have been told that this step has given great dissatisfaction, and that the officers in general complain loudly of the injury done to the service by the dismissal of an officer on articles which he had been acquitted of by his judges ; but still I think the step was absolutely necessary ; and if the President and Council were at all culpable, it was in not publishing their reasonings on the proceedings of the Court . . . , because in my opinion conciliating the minds of the corps of officers and preventing as far as possible any discontent from getting possession of them is a point that should be materially attended to . . .

"Verelst, I imagine, will be in England before this can reach you. His administration is greatly censured, and there are those who scruple not to say it was a compound of indolence and ignorance.

"Mr. B., Call, James Bourchier, Debeck<sup>(3)</sup> and Frieschman<sup>(4)</sup>

(1) Richard Fairfield. *Vide* No 41, p. 63, note 5.

(2) John Calland. *Vide* No. 34 p. 55, note 3.

(3) De Beck was in 1758 a Captain in the Madras European Regiment.

(4) Daniel Frieschman was an Ensign of Swiss Infantry in 1754. As Lieut.-Colonel he served in the first Mysore war.

all leave us on the *Britannia*. Du Pré became Governor the 31st ultimo agreeable to the Company's orders; but he has hitherto remained quiet in his new station, and there will be no meeting till Mr. B. has left us. Then we shall see what we shall see, and you shall know how we go on. I have before expressed to you what my apprehensions are. Hastings's amiable disposition has, however, in great measure eased them, and I am willing to hope that his mildness will prove a palliative to the rigour of the other.

"Mr. B. and myself have been on the most friendly footing during his whole government . . . His administration has been truly troublesome and unfortunate, and he now labours under the displeasure of the Court for faults which I cannot think were his own . . . To me it is past a doubt that our want of success has been in great measure owing to Call; and I will frankly declare to you that I have seen sufficient of him most heartily to wish that he may never have the administration of affairs lodged in his hands. I will go so far as to say he has neither steadiness or abilities for such a post; and after saying this you must not imagine you are reading the opinion of a prejudiced person, for Call and I have had no sort of dispute; we have rather been on an intimate footing. I speak from conviction that he might make a good Counsellor, but that he would be a wretched Governor.

"I have nothing to say to you on the subject of Madras news, except that Jack Hollond<sup>(1)</sup> has brought a young wife from Bengal, who is more admired for her good sense than beauty, though in the latter she surpasses most of our females. But this is mere hearsay, for I have been so tied to my desk that I have not paid a visit for many months . . .

"The matter which you wrote about to Moodu Kistnah and me still remains in the same situation. I wish I may not shortly have occasion to observe your instructions on that head. I have my fears however . . .

"W. M. GOODLAD."

[*Holograph*, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 92.]

ROBERT PALK, jun. to ROBERT PALK, Esq., Spring Gardens.

1770, February 25th. Ingerlee.—I am sending a parcel of "20 neck cloths for my brother Walter," who is to divide them with my father if the latter needs them. I came here yesterday to see Mrs. Floyer on board the *Anson*, as the lady is going to visit Madras.

"We have some appearance of troubles again up the country. Cossim Ally Cawn<sup>(2)</sup> is reported to have mustered up a strong

<sup>(1)</sup> John Hollond, a Madras civil servant of 1761, entered Council in 1777, became Resident at Hyderabad in Rumbold's administration, and in 1789 acted as Governor of Madras for a year.

<sup>(2)</sup> Kāsim Ali Khan (Mir Kāsim), late Nawab of Bengal, who was responsible for the Patna massacre of 1763.



force, which in all probability will be joined to that of Shuja Dowla. A hircarrah<sup>(1)</sup> has been taken in conveying letters from the one to the other. If the French do not trouble us, we shall give a very good account of our northern friends . . . George and his little family at Midnapore are all in good health . . .

“ROBERT PALK.”

“P.S.—Young Mr. Sullivan<sup>(2)</sup> is with me. He is just arrived from China, where he was obliged to go for the recovery of his health.”

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4 to. Wax seal with the Palk crest.*]

[No. 93.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN] GOODLAD.

1770, March 15th. London.—“Dear Goodlad, . . . The French are not likely, I think, soon to disturb you, for their situation in Europe is certainly more pitiful than ours. They have been obliged to make use of the sponge, finding it impossible to raise supplies sufficient to pay the annual interest of their debt.

“Oceans of people are gone this year to India, and I am at a loss to guess how they can all be provided for. However, the number is much less for Sullivan’s opposing it. To support a proprietary interest the Directors are in a manner obliged to overload India. It is very uncertain which party will be triumphant this year in Leadenhall Street; both sides seem to be sure of success. Whoever carries it, I should think it will be the last great struggle, and whichever way it goes I think your little brother<sup>(3)</sup> will have a good chance of seeing you next year.

“In my last I told you we were on our journey into Devonshire, where I have at last, near Exeter, pitched my tent—in a good house and very pleasant country, close to the road when in good time you land at Plymouth . . .

“ROBT. PALK.”

[P.S.]—“Mrs. Mackay came home in good time to save the dismissal of her husband.”

[No. 94.]

WARREN HASTINGS to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.]

1770, April 3rd. Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, I wrote to you by the *Britannia*, and at the same time acknowledged the receipt of your favor of the 23rd of June last. By this packet I have sent bills to my attorneys to enable them to discharge my bond to Mr. Sumner,<sup>(4)</sup> and have directed them to apply to you to assist in settling that account, which is the last trouble that I shall have occasion to give you in this business. For

(1) *Hircarrah*, from Hind. *harkāra*, a messenger, spy.

(2) John Sullivan. *Vide* No. 19, p. 29, note 3.

(3) Richard Goodlad.

(4) William Brightwell Sumner. *Vide* No. 88, p. 118, note 1.

that which you have already had, and the risque you have undergone in it on my account, I repeat my thanks.

"I hope I shall have your excuse for the trouble which I am going to give you in an affair of another kind, having taken the liberty to consign two bulses of diamonds to you, one marked No. 1, the property of Mr. Hancock,<sup>(1)</sup> the other marked No. 2, belonging to Lieut. Colonel Ironside.<sup>(2)</sup> It was the only way I had of complying with the pressing sollicitation of these gentlemen to remit money for the use of their families, as they had been disappointed of bills in Bengal. Having neglected to give proper directions to me concerning the consignments, their first application being for bills, they have made it necessary for me to request you to receive these commissions, as Mr. Hancock's attorneys can be but incompetent judges of the value of diamonds or the methods of disposing of them, and as Mrs. Ironside, like other ladies, is most probably acquainted with only one way of laying out jewels.

"I do suppose that Mr. Hancock's attorneys will be glad to leave the disposal of his diamonds to your management. In that case I shall be obliged to you if you will dispose of them to the best advantage, and let them have the produce; but if they should rather chuse to receive them unsold, be pleased to deliver them into their charge. I have only written to Mrs. Hancock upon the subject, by whose directions I request you will be guided. That lady, Francis Austen, Esq., and the Rev. Mr. George Austen are Mr. Hancock's attorneys.

"The produce of Colonel Ironside's diamonds you will be pleased to pay to Mrs. Ironside, his lady. She is a relation of the General's, and of an amiable and deserving character. This will serve as an excuse for troubling you with her concern. I believe I shall have your ready permission for the other.

"The late arrival of the *Aurora* gives us all much uneasiness. I never knew any object in which the wishes of all men seemed so heartily to concur as in the coming of the Commissioners, and this may be the reason why we are so alarmed at their long passage, which is what ought to be expected from the difficulty of the navigation round Ceyloan at this time of the year, and

(1) Tyso Saul Hancock, a Madras surgeon, attended Clive at Trichinopoly in 1752, was transferred to Bengal in 1759, and resigned the service two years later. He continued to reside at Calcutta, where he practised medicine in conjunction with commerce. Hancock accompanied his intimate friend Warren Hastings to England in 1765 and returned to Madras with him in 1769. In 1770 he was reappointed to the Bengal medical service. He married at Cuddalore in 1753 Philadelphia Austen, aunt of Jane Austen the novelist, and died at Calcutta in 1775, aged 64.

(2) Gilbert Ironside, descended from two Bishops of Bristol of that name, was a son of Edward Ironside, banker, of London, who died when Lord Mayor in 1753. Born in 1737, Gilbert was educated at Winchester, and went to India in 1756 as Ensign of an independent company. Returning to England by way of China, he re-embarked in 1759 as Ensign in the Bengal Army. He accompanied Hastings to Patna in 1762, was employed on the Staff by both Clive and Vansittart, became Lieut. Colonel in 1768, and served as Hastings's Military Secretary in 1772. As Colonel he commanded a brigade in 1774, retired in 1786, and died in England in 1801. Ironside married in 1763 Letitia, daughter of the Rev. Robert Roberts. He left unpublished works on logic, tactics and Persian grammar.

the inexperience of the men of the Navy in these seas. Would to God they were come! We are just arrived at the crisis in which I fear we shall be compelled to declare ourselves the friends or foes of Hyder or Mahdebrow. Both have been hitherto kept in expectation of our alliance, and that expectation only has, I believe, prevented the ravages of the latter. Griffiths is well, and goes on well. Pray present my compliments to Mrs. Palk and the General, and believe me to be with the truest esteem and regard, dear P., your obliged humble servant,

[Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.]

“WARREN HASTINGS.”

[No. 95.]

WARREN HASTINGS to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esq.

1770, April 7th. Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, I must trouble you again to desire that you will not sell the diamonds by an advance on the invoice price, which I understand is the usual method, because they are, I am assured, of a superior quality to most sent to England by this ship. You will be pleased therefore to open the bibles, and rate them by their quality when you dispose of them.

“Shall I beg the favor of you to send the enclosed to Lieutenant Douglass of the *York* man of war? I cannot recollect a more particular direction to him. I am, dear Sir, your most obedient servant,

[Holograph, 1 p., 4to.]

“WARREN HASTINGS.”

[No. 96.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.]

1770, April 8th. Fort St. George. Received 15th October.—“My dear Friend, . . . We have been long looking out for the *Aurora*, and persuade ourselves that she must make her appearance very shortly. The *Stagg* arrived at Anjengo the 19th February, and we learn by her that the *Aurora* left the Cape between the 20th and 30th of December. According to the common course of passages she should be here now, yet the uncertain season makes us very little apprehensive for her, particularly as the *Duke of Kingston* was at the Cape at the same time, and ought by the same rule to have been with us.

“Peace still prevails, and in my opinion we have little to apprehend for the present year. The season is already very far advanced, and the Marattas too much engaged with Hyder to trouble us. No compromise seems likely to take place between them, and the apprehensions of our joining Hyder will prevent their commencing hostilities as long as their disputes subsist. Each party would rejoice at our assistance, and 'tis possible the Marattas may endeavour to frighten us in order to obtain it; but I cannot believe they will go further, and unless they do, I regard it as certain that we shall remain neuter. They have plagued Hyder confoundedly. May they continue to torment each other!



“At present our prospect is very good. The Committee<sup>(1)</sup> had, previous to Mr. B's departure, settled very advantageous terms with his Excellency<sup>(2)</sup> for the discharge of his debts, and he has hitherto been very punctual in his payments. We shall be able to pay off our debt, assist China largely, and nevertheless provide an ample Investment. How different was our prospect twelve months ago !

“Colonel Wood did intend to have taken his passage on the *Anson*, but his unfortunate disputes with the Board have prevented it, for they would not give him leave unless he would give security to stand the issue of the suits commenced against him in the Mayor's Court . . . He talks loudly of the injustice done him in many respects . . .

“Matters have hitherto gone on very smoothly in the new government. Du Pré is very cleaver and calculated for business. We are punctual in every thing—registers closed, papers signed and dispatches delivered to an hour . . . and my poor pate and fingers have paid pretty severely for many days past . . .

“A storm is said to be brewing in Bengal, and 'tis probable the name of Cossim<sup>(3)</sup> will be once more familiar to us. The Gentlemen there, however, seem more alarmed with expectations of the French than from inland appearances ; with what reason I know not, but I am sure we are not equally apprehensive here. That great preparations have been making at the Islands<sup>(4)</sup> is certain, but in my opinion their views are more bent towards the entire conquest of Madagascar than this way . . .

“Calcutta itself is in a deplorable way, and the want of money felt to a degree scarcely to be conceived ;—individuals daily becoming bankrupts, property sold by the Mayor's Court for not a third of its value, and, what is still worse, grain so exceedingly scarce that the distresses of the country people are beyond all conception. The Nabob Syfe ut Dowlah<sup>(5)</sup> thought to be past recovery in the small pox . . .

“W. M. GOODLAD.”

[P.S.]—“Pray, my respectful compliments to the General. The Nabob sent his annuity late last night . . .”

[*Holograph*, 3 pp., *flsep.*]

[No. 97.]

LAU[RENCE] SULLIVAN to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.]

N.D. [1770, *cir.* May-September].—“Dear Sir, That one of the best businesses in this life is to do good offices is your opinion, confirmed by practice. Indulge me then with a few words.

“To carry the India election last year and to compleat it

(1) The Select Committee.

(2) Nawab Wajajah.

(3) Kāsim Ali Khan. *Vide* No. 92, p. 122, note 2.

(4) *Vide* No. 47, p. 72, note 1.

(5) Nawāb Saif-ud-daula, second son of Mir Jafar, succeeded his brother Najm-ud-daula as Nawāb of Bengal in 1766, and died in March, 1770.

the next has involved the fortunes of Mr. Vansittart and myself, though I have since found we did not start alike. I had then a comfortable independance; it was necessary that he should once more see India; his wishes (thank God) are accomplished, but the fortunes of both are still at stake, a return to his former affluence still depending, and much, upon my interest and industry. It will be the joy of my life to see him happy, and in seeking the recovery of my own prosperity it never has or ever shall clash or take preference. Something then is due to me.

“We are pledged and engaged mutually for large sums to prevent our suffering severely in the sale of stock in these hours of panic. As it was a common cause, I never considered who advanced the money necessary so long as one of us had the money to advance, and accordingly when he left England, and many months before, I had paid in twelve thousand pounds, and he was indebted to this joint concern 3,000*l.* Upon the eve of his departure we had very serious discourse upon the subject of his leaving me behind in a dreadful situation, having no other resources left that I could reach but my estate and 3,500*l.* India stock. He stated that 20,000*l.* of the French bills, 2,000 India stock, his salary from the Company and license to draw upon him for 10,000*l.* were the aids he would leave absolutely at my call under the direction of Mr. Motteux,<sup>(1)</sup> and if more was necessary he would leave a letter with that gentleman to be delivered to his attorney; though this not to be done without the last necessity; and at my earnest request promised that his attorney should have no negative in these aids, but directions absolute to comply. Supposing then (which I cannot doubt) that Van has not deceived me, how much must I be astonished at the behaviour of Mr. Boehm<sup>(2)</sup> towards Mr. Motteux and me! He has demurred to grant what an enemy does not refuse me. You see by the enclosed what has been desired, which I will again explain to you:—Mr. Boyd<sup>(3)</sup> in last Direction lent us 9,000*l.* to make 18 votes,<sup>(4)</sup> and Messrs. Vansittart, Manship,<sup>(5)</sup> and Sullivan gave him an obligation to return him the stock by calling in these votes whenever demanded. Mr. Manship having quitted us—at least keeping himself to act as he shall please—demands that his name may be taken out of the obligation, but says, as he means always to act like a gentleman, will be content (if this is inconvenient) to have the 18 names with the receipts deposited with him. As I did not chuse to allarm Mr. Boyd or to trust Manship with votes that he would have the power to disqualifie, I asked Mr. Manship, instead of this, to take an obligation from me and Mr. Vansittart’s attorney importing that his name to Boyd’s

(1) John Motteux, a Director in 1769.

(2) Edmund Boehm, Attorney for Henry Vansittart.

(3) John Boyd, a Director from 1753 to 1764.

(4) *Vide* No. 62, p. 91, note 4.

(5) John Manship, a Director from 1762 to 1809.

obligation was null and void. Manship very kindly acquiesces and does us a real favour. Ought Mr. Boehm then to hesitate a moment, as Van's attorney, to sign with me such a paper, which Van himself, if present, must have done? Don't I offer Mr. Boehm (which he has no right to claim of me) the same security that an enemy (Manship) is willing to accept? Is Vansittart to ruin himself and me by appointing a person that will not act for him?

"Mr. Motteux's treatment hurts me, and may injure us if I cannot calm him. He has been a usefull friend indeed, and we owe him much. Mr. Pleydell,<sup>(1)</sup> in deep distress, applys for part of money lent, and often promised, by Van. We could not pay him. He is drove to state his situation to a friend, and he, wishing Van well, gives him 1,000*l.* and takes his order upon Motteux. This person was Mr. Gainor [?]; depending the draft would be honoured, waits upon Mr. Motteux, who states it to Mr. Boehm, and being daily dunned he writes him a letter whose answer is such as might be given to his clerk; and Motteux has paid the money (for the honour of Vansittart) out of his own cash.

"Such being the history, I am, in behalf of Van and myself, to implore your good offices (and remember that I positively ask and desire no more) with a person who, however good and amiable he may be in other respects, is acting in these instances deeply to the injury [of] Mr. Vansittart. I want no favour of Mr. Boehm, but common justice, to do that in behalf of Mr. Vansittart which he must and would have done if present, and which Mr. Boehm is instructed to do, or I am cruelly deceived. If he has not those powers and will not contribute those aids, Mr. Vansittart must share with me the consequences. I (not he) shall be ruined, but still with a balm to all good minds, honest to the last. I trouble you on many accounts;—your friendship to us both, but particularly Mr. Boehm's asserting he can take up no point without your opinion and approbation. If I have a negative respecting Manship, who is to have his answer by Tuesday, I will directly put him in possession of 18 votes.

"I am ever, my dear Sir, yours most affectionately,  
"Sunday."

"LAU. SULIVAN."

[P.S.]—"I understood you had lent lately to Mr. Boehm, for the purpose of serving Van in this business, 5,000*l.* Mr. Motteux could with difficulty get 1,500.

"The matter, as mentioned in Mr. Boehm's note relative to Messrs. Manship and Boyd, is that Manship would apply to Boyd demanding his name to be given up, to which Mr. Boehm has no objection."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

(1) Charles Stafford Pleydell (or Playdell). *Vide* No. 256, p. 252, note 4.



[No. 98.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN] GOODLAD.

1770, June 16th, per *Dolphin* frigate. Received 20th February, 1771.—“ My dear Goodlad, . . I join in all you say ” in your letters of 16th September and 19th November “ concerning poor Bourchier, and will only add the times have been very unfortunate. However, his reception will be more to his satisfaction than he expected. I only wish, instead of driving Calland to despair, he had moved him from St. David . . . I desire you will still continue your application concerning Withecombe’s money . . .

“ I hope in God you will continue in peace ; but as long as we are to protect the Carnateck troubles will sometimes arise, and it will require the most prudent management to keep clear of them. I have, however, great expectations from Mr. Du Pré and Mr. Hastings, if more cooks do not spoil the soup, and the Commissioners at least do no harm. The only good these gentlemen can do, I judge, at Madras will be to soften the severity of the Company’s orders concerning the Nabob’s creditors . . . The Company cannot set aside the rights of the creditors ; and the whole can only be meant to shew at a General Court that the Directors have exerted themselves, and there I suppose it will end. However, *entre nous*, it seems surprizing to me that the Governor and Council ever gave their sanction to such an Assignment, because the only inducement the Company could have in launching out their money to the Nabob seemed to be a just expectation that the Carnateck was bound for the security of repayment. I very sincerely pity the poor Nabob, and wish there was any prospect of an end to his troubles. I often advised him, when he was borrowing such large sums, of the consequences which might hereafter follow . . . ”

I recommend you to correspond with Mr. Purling<sup>(1)</sup> on the Company’s affairs, as he is strongly supported by Lord Clive, and the present directors are now firmly established. I am writing on my way to Devonshire for the summer. Hint to my nephew, whose letters show marks of carelessness, that more thought is called for.

“ ROBT. PALK.”

[*Holograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 99.]

C. BAZETT<sup>(2)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1770, August 9th. St. Helena.—I desire to secure a nomination as Writer for my son in England, and seek your kind recommendation and support.

“ C. BAZETT.”

[*Autograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

(1) John Purling was Deputy Chairman of Directors in 1770, and Chairman in 1771.

(2) Several members of the Bazett family were domiciled at St. Helena. They appear to have been descendants of Captain Matthew Bazett, who was temporary Governor of the island in 1714.

## [No. 100.]

GEORGE VANSITTART to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esq.

1770, September 5th. Calcutta.—“Dear Palk, . . . I must now communicate to you a piece of intelligence on which I cannot reflect without the deepest sorrow, and which will be equally afflicting to you. The *Aurora* left the Cape the latter end of December, and has no more been heard of. Faint hopes are entertained that she may still be safe; but for my part I must confess that I can flatter myself with none. A storm, a rock or fire have, I fear, deprived us for ever of our brother. I write by this ship (the *Lapwing*) to you and my eldest brother<sup>(1)</sup> only, and to you two I leave the disagreeable task of informing my mother, Mrs. Harry Van, Mrs. Palk and the rest of our friends of this most unhappy event . . . I shall in future write fully to you whatever may occur to me relative to the transactions in Bengal as I used to do to Harry . . .

“Councils are established at Moorshedabad and Patna for the management of the Dewanny revenues. Messrs. Becher, Reid, Lawrell and Graham compose the former; Alexander, Vansittart and Palk the latter. Palk and I shall travel off to Patna in a few days . . . You will hear from your nephew that he is now a married man . . . Our little George Henry<sup>(2)</sup> has been very dangerously ill, but by Mr. Hancock’s<sup>(3)</sup> good management is now recovered . . .”

“GEORGE VANSITTART.”

[P.S.]—“Colonel Ironside is apprehensive of being superseded by Colonel Lesly,<sup>(4)</sup> and has desired me to request your interest in his behalf . . .”

[Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.]

## [No. 101.]

ROBERT PALK [jun.] to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1770, September 8th. Calcutta.—I gratefully acknowledge the trouble you have taken to obtain my reinstatement in the service. Councils are nominated for Moorshedabad and Patna for revenue collection, and I am appointed to the latter with Alexander<sup>(5)</sup> and Vansittart.

“George has told you in his letter how faint our hopes are of ever hearing of the *Aurora*. She left the Cape the 23rd of December, and has no more been heard of. The captain talked of making a short cut; said the Indians took too great a circle in general. Our fears are that fire, a rock or something of the kind has for ever deprived us of poor Mr. Van—a cruel fate indeed! His loss will be severely felt in India as well as at home.

<sup>(1)</sup> Robert Vansittart.

<sup>(2)</sup> Afterwards General G. H. Vansittart.

<sup>(3)</sup> Dr. Tyso Saul Hancock. Vide No. 94, p. 124, note 1.

<sup>(4)</sup> Colonel Matthew Leslie, a King’s officer, had previously served in the West Indies.

<sup>(5)</sup> James Alexander. Vide No. 65, p. 92, note 6.

"The *Stag* has been on her embassy to Persia, but I can give no account of her proceedings there. She is daily expected from Madras with General Coote on board.

"We have had a most dreadful scarcity in Bengal and Bahar this year. Many hundred thousand of poor creatures have died for absolute want. In many parts of the country there are not hands enough to cultivate the lands . . ."

My acknowledgments are due to Mr. Vanrixtal's father. I shall do my best for his son: "indeed I have often endeavoured to bring him out of a strange unaccountable way of life, which has brought on him much misery and must in a few years end his existence. . ."

"I hope some of the ships of the season will bring me the books you promised to send, Millar's Dictionary and Hooker's History. You sent me a very handsome supply of books from Madras, and it is with infinite satisfaction I dedicate an hour or two every day to their study, which, to my shame I say it, is more than ever I did before . . ."

I correspond with my brother at Madras, who is now "in joint house keeping with James Call,"<sup>(1)</sup> and have consigned goods to him. I have heard nothing of Mr. Yarde,<sup>(2)</sup> who was in bad health when he left Calcutta to join the army. Mr. Becher<sup>(3)</sup> has been seriously ill, and intends making a sea voyage "as his last resource."

"I have not yet communicated the most material piece of news regarding myself, and what will, I believe, surprise you much. You may remember how alert I used to be at Madras when in the company of Miss Stonhouse,<sup>(4)</sup> the propensity I had to make myself a favorite; but George's coming down cut off all my hopes. I have, however, allied myself to the family by marrying the second sister.<sup>(5)</sup> I fear you will think that by this act I have defeated your good intention of rendering me usefull to my friends at home; but I give you my word, Sir, it shall be no obstacle to that end. I have no desire to see any of my sisters in India, but if you think proper to send either of them out, I shall give them a most sincere reception and take every care of them in my power. If either of 'em should come out, as well as I can recollect my youngest sister (Grace) is the best calculated . . ."

"ROBERT PALK."

"11th [Sept.]—I have just received a letter from Mr. Morse giving hopes of the *Aurora* . . . R.P."

[*Holograph*, 10 $\frac{1}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

(1) James Call entered the Madras civil service in 1765. He never left India, and died in 1799.

(2) Lieut. John Yarde, Bengal Army. Vide No. 54, p. 80, note 2.

(3) Richard Becher, Bengal civil service.

(4) Sarah Stonhouse.

(5) Lucia Stonhouse.



## [No. 102.]

A[LEXANDE]R WYNCH to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1770, September 16th. Masulipatam.—“Dear Palk, Happy indeed should I be could I by this ship give you some account of our friend Van. Our expectations and, I was going to say our hopes, are almost over, for every part [?port] where she could be gone to in the Indian seas we have heard from. Pitty you all I do; I feel myself for the man I loved . . . Du Pré would think it a very fortunate event if Providence was to send the *Aurora* to Fort St. George, as at once they would be able to determine between the Governor and General.<sup>(1)</sup> The latter by his commission thinks himself the first person. The Governor will not give it up, nor can he in my opinion, as the President of each Settlement must be the Supreme over all the Company’s servants both civil and military . . . Coote acts not now on the Coast, and if the Gentlemen at Bengall do not choose to give him the rank he expects, he intends home by the first ship. I am surprized there was not more circumspection in the orders that were sent out with him.” This and the altercation there has been with Sir John Lendsey<sup>(2)</sup> has made it disagreeable to all concerned. . . The dignity of the Governor is greatly lessened, and Walaw Jaw seems to look upon it in that light. He already has asked the Governor and Council if they know who he is, &c. Repent what he is now doing he will, as sure as the sun will shine again. An extraordinary commission Sir John’s is, if what it is reported to be is the truth, that he is [to] negociate independant of the Company with any country Powers he pleases, to examine into what he pleases, and make use of any measures he may please in doing it, even underhand and private ones . . . Du Pré has a bad time of it. Hastings is, I think, to be pittied . . .”

I am anxious to leave Indiã on account of my age, and because my girls need me at home, but I must first find means to remit the little money I possess.

“At present we as Englishmen are free from war, but whether we may not be under the necessity of assisting Hyder, who is going to be attacked again by both Soubah and Morattas, or of joining them to overset him, is more than I can say; but this I do, that if both can be avoided without detriment to ourselves, that will be the measure we would choose. At Bengall they are free from war, but famine rages to the greatest degree. All above Calcutta 2 and 3 seer of rice only for a rupee, and thousands dye dayly . . .

“My son George<sup>(3)</sup> will be 16 in November, 1771, and be ready to offer his services to the Company as a Writer. If you can

(1) Major-General Eyre Coote, Commander-in-Chief in India.

(2) Admiral Sir John Lindsay, Naval Commander-in-Chief and Minister Plenipotentiary, arrived in India in July, 1770, at the age of thirty-three. In the following year he was invested by Nawab Walajah at Chepauk with the insignia of the Order of the Bath.

(3) George Wynch was appointed a Writer in 1773.

get him a god father he will, as well as myself, be obliged to you. Bengall or Madrass I would have him come to ; the first I would prefer, having 2 here already. . . . Billy<sup>(1)</sup> called here last month on his way to Bengall ; he is gone to see his aunt Watts. Alexander is just made a lieutenant, and ordered to Madge's battalion of sepoys. Madam lay in last month : another girl we have, so that when I come home I should want a whole Great Cabbin. I thank you for the attention you have paid to my son Bob. If a war should commence, I think he had better try his fortune this way, especially if he can be got into the Admiral's ship. His chance of promotion would be greater than at home, where I have but little interest with the gentlemen of the Navy. I dayly expect to receive orders from Madrass to go into the Circars again this year to settle the Zummabundy.<sup>(2)</sup> By what I did the last, the Zemindars begin to feel the good effects of our government, being free from all kind of oppressions, which under a rapacious Renter (and none I have known to be any other) they were not. . . .

"I fear I shall never be able to enjoy the sweets of country life, for the education of my daughters will compel me to live where proper masters can be obtained. I have not heard this year from my daughter Sophy".

"AR. WYNCH."

[Autograph, 8 pp., 4to.]

[No. 103.]

MRS. JANE MORSE to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1770, September 19th. Fort St. George.—"Dear Sir . . . The *Aurora* has not been heard of since she left the Cape the 24 of December. Providence has given my dear Mrs. Van a large portion of affliction, but I trust he will give her a proportional degree of fortitude to enable her in some degree to bear with patience this last most fatal trial . . . Mr. Morse is much afflicted : scenes of such interesting an nature are too much at his age to bear up against, especially to one whose life has been filled with care and anxiety. How shocked I was to hear the distracted state Mr. Van's affairs were in ! We thought his fortune much reduced to what it was, and therefore necessary for him to return again to India for the benefit of his family, but could have no idea that his fortune had suffered so largely. The losses our family has sustained in the stocks are much talked of here : there are no secrets in this place . . . Mr. Morse has not for some [time] past taken any of the allowance Mr. Van was pleased to give us, and by his care in letting the office and godowns the house has produced, clear of all charges and repairs, five per cent. for his money. Now I imagine it will be sold for

(1) William Wynch entered the Madras civil service in 1766.

(2) *Jamabandi*, the annual settlement of fluctuating items of land revenue ; from Hind. *jama*, whole, and Pers. *bandhi*, settlement.

the most it will fetch. We shall then hire a house in the Black Town, there being none in the White<sup>(1)</sup> to be got but what are at too high prizes for us."

Mrs. Van will be guided in everything by you and Mr. Bouchier, and desires to retire into the country for the sake of economy.

"Mr. Palk is married to Miss Stonehouse. She is a prudent girl, and I hope she will make a good wife . . ."

"JANE MORSE."

[*Holograph*, 3½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 104.]

NIC[HOLAS] MORSE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1770, September 30th. Fort St. George.—"Dear Sir, This waites on you by the *Lapwing* . . . and by her [I] have an opportunity to acquaint you that, to our great concern, we have not yet seen our friend in the *Aurora*, but hear she left the Cape of Good Hope the 24 of December, and from the report of Lieutenant Johnson of the *Stag*, who was aboard in the harbour, that there was a gale of wind on the next evening after the day the *Aurora* sailed, which he imagined might have occasioned the loss of her mastes, and the wind being from the south east, which generally prevails at that season, carryed them to the Brazils to refit. If nothing is heard of them by the month of January, it may be concluded that some accident has befallen them, and in that case a heavy loss to the family; and my poor Mrs. Van [will] stand in need of all your kind care and regard to support her under so great an affliction . . .

"This country is at present quiet, but Hyder and the Morattas are still in arms against each other, and it will be scarce practicable for the English to satisfy both. The French are increasing their military force at Pondicherry, every ship bringing officers, men and ammunition, &c. They have some ships in India already of 60 guns, and are reported to have large numbers of men both at the islands of Mauritius and Madagascar. At this last they have erected a strong fort, and are training the natives to arms; so that I should be glad to see some of his Majesty's ships abroad to be ready for them, as it is very probable the rupture will begin in these parts . . . You will hear that the Governour and Council here have had some differences with General Coote in regard to the extent of his commission, as has occasioned the General to decline acting."

George Vansittart and your nephew Robert have been appointed to the Committee for collecting the revenue of Bihar, and the former has resigned the Chiefships of "Midnapore and Dynagepore" in consequence.

(1) The White Town lay within the walls of Fort St. George; the Black Town was the native city situated north of the Fort.



"The famine in Bengal has been so great that in some parts rice was not to be bought for more than two seer for a rupee, which used to be at 30 and upwards; and the number of dead bodies has occasioned a sickness, so that the country is in deep distress. Loaves of bread that were at 32 last year per rupee are reduced to 4 at Calcutta . . .

"As Harry<sup>(1)</sup> is, I find, intended for India, the best way I think will be to send him in the civil service to Bengal to his uncle, who may have it in his power to serve him; and that Settlement you are sensible has greatly the advantage of the others for persons to get forward in fortune . . . Pray let neither him nor any of his brothers be sent out cadets.

"Mr. Carty, as one of Mr. Sloper's executors, applied to me some months ago for money for bills for the portion of one of the daughters . . . but the match was broke off . . . Your nephew Mr. Thomas is well and under Mr. Goodlad in the office, and has his allowance of twenty pagodas per month. His brother at Bengal has made some consignments to him and Mr. James Call, and he has entered as a merchant . . ."

It is understood that Mr. Brooke is to go to the northward on the occurrence of a vacancy, although Messrs. Ardley, Stratton and Dawson are senior to him. The Nawab has paid in fourteen lakhs of pagodas to the Company, and about Pags. 90,000 for the creditors, but the latter have not yet been allowed to receive the amount. The despatch of military officers from England is very discouraging to those on the Coast establishment.

"I wish you much happiness in your new purchass,<sup>(2)</sup> and that you and Mrs. Palk may find it answer your expectations, and that a retirement may prove agreeable after the bustle and noise of a town situation. My house at the Mount is near finished, and we purpose, with the leave of Mr. Hydro and Moderow, to live there about 8 months in the year, or the greatest part of that time. Whether those great gentlemen will chuse to indulge us time is to shew . . ."

[*Holograph*, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

"NIC. MORSE."

#### [No. 105.]

WILLIAM JACKSON<sup>(3)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1770, October 1st. Madrass.—"You were so kind [as] to give Mr. Dunning<sup>(4)</sup> in December, 1769, two letters of recommendation for me, one of which was to Mr. Stone, who has paid the utmost regard to your recommendation." For this I return you grateful thanks.

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

"WILLIAM JACKSON."

(1) Henry Vansittart, jun., son of Governor Henry Vansittart.

(2) Haldon House.

(3) William Jackson entered the Madras civil service in 1770.

(4) John Dunning of Ashburton, barrister, became Solicitor General in 1768, and was created Baron Ashburton in 1782.

[No. 106.]

LIEUT. THOMAS PALK to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1770, October 1st. Condapillee.—“Honoured Sir, . . . I have the pleasure to inform you that my brother<sup>(1)</sup> arrived at Madras the 30th of June last. He has been in that neighbourhood ever since, so that I have not as yet had the satisfaction of seeing him. Just after his arrival he, with the rest of the cadets of this season, were ordered out to Poonamale in order to learn their exercise. Mr. Dupré then promised him he should be sent down to the Circars as soon as he had been there his time. . . All the cadets on this establishment were a few days ago appointed ensigns. My brother has been very lucky in getting a commission so soon . . . ; but General Coote since his arrival has been the means of great alterations in the military corps.” There are accounts of disputes between Mr. Dupré and General Coote, as well as between the Governor and the Commodore.<sup>(2)</sup> Much alarm is felt at the non-arrival of the *Aurora*. I am as far off promotion as I was a year ago owing to the number of captains sent out by the Company. It is reported that the Coast troops are to be brigaded as in Bengal. I have now commanded this garrison upwards of a year. Captain Madge, who is not hopeful of early promotion, is engaged with Poligars near Samulcotah.

“I heard from cousin Thomas some days ago. He is well. He still remains at Madrass. Cousin Robert was married to Miss Stonehouse the 12th of June last, since which he writes me he has been appointed third to a Council of revenues for the Bahar Province, and that he and Mrs. Palk will shortly set out for Patna . . .”

“THOMAS PALK.”

[Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 107.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1770, October 1st. Fort St. George.—The Government have appointed two sets of Merchants to provide the Company's Investment. The first set, consisting of “Chippermall Chitty, myself, Subrumania Chitty, Lingapa Chitty, Condepah Chitty and Audynarayenah Chitty” are to supply longeloth, salempores, moorees, gingham, Conjeveram beteelas and muslin handkerchiefs to the value of Pags. 108,000. The other set, comprising “Mannar Chitty, and Arnachella Chitty,” will provide longeloth, beteelas Oringal and beteelas Pulicate.

“Madavaraw would on no account whatsoever make up matters with Hyder. He left 30,000 horses under the command of Gopalraw in Hyder's country, and is gone back to his country [in] June last. It is reported that Madaviraw himself will be

(1) John Palk.

(2) Sir John Lindsay.

in Hyder's country [in] January next, and if we don't assist Hyder the Marattys will certainly ruin him, and we are uncertain what troubles the Marattys may give us afterwards."

Bengal is much reduced by famine, the scarcity of rice being unprecedented. The Armenian and native merchants have commissioned a ship for Manila this year. The French are receiving supplies of men and military stores. "The French Settlements in India are entirely delivered up to the French King, and Mr. Law<sup>(1)</sup> is appointed Marshall de Camp and King's Governour, and they have now at Pondichery [nine hundred soldiers and four hundred seapoys . . .]"

"ЧОКАРАН."

[*Autograph, 2 pp., f1scp.*]

[No. 108.]

JOS[IAS] DU PRÉ to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1770, October 4th. Fort St. George.—"Dear Sir, Give me leave in a few words, for I have not time for more, to thank you for your two obliging letters of the 11th November, 1769, and 9th March, '70. You will have grief enough on hearing that we have no news of the Commissioners. I shall therefore say no more than that it is a disappointment to us, who, far from fearing the result of their enquiries and the effects of their power, thought them the only means by which we could find redress, and effectually refute the malevolent insinuations which must have gone home in private letters and have been magnified there to answer private purposes.

"You say Coote was to have the same powers General Lawrence had. You will find his ideas run much higher: he thinks himself above controul. We would not submit to be trampled on, and so he refused to sit with us or to act, and is gone down to Bengal<sup>(2)</sup> in a great huff. How he will be received there I cannot tell. It would take up a volume to give you the history of our quarrell: my brother Alexander will be able to give it to you at large. We have also been drawn into a correspondence with Sir John Lindsay, by which I suppose we shall draw on ourselves the vengeance of the Ministry who sent him out. These are dangerous times, and I wish I was well out of them. What is doing between Sir John and the Nabob, I can't say, but I believe no good to the Company or their servants now and for years past. We are no more what we were. We have neither controul nor influence over the Nabob. People at home think him full of virtue and honor. Good God! that a man so devoid of both should by deceit have acquired such a character! You hope, now that peace is concluded, we may be able to put the immense length of country we have to protect into a better state of management and

(1) Jean Law, Governor of Pondicherry.

(2) Coote changed his mind at the last moment and went to England via Basra.



security ; but how, my friend, are we to do [it] ? The Company abuse us like pick-pockets, send over a military officer to quarrell with and tyrannise over us and throw us into confusion. The Government send Sir John Lindsay to threaten and awe us, to wrest all our actions into crimes and to support the Nabob (perverse enough before) against all our measures ; and then, if misfortunes happen, we must bear the whole. I tell you, my friend, the Company's affairs never were in so dangerous a way. We are surrounded with enemys, and the most dangerous are neither Hyder, the Morattas, the Soubah or the French.

"I hope Mr. Hastings will write you more at large of our situation. I have no rest night or day. 'Tis a great comfort in my distress to have such a man as Mr. Hastings. We are upon the best terms, and he supports me cordially. I think myself obliged to you for your friendly letters : you will add to the obligation if you will not expect long answers. Mrs. Du Pré expects next month to be in the straw : she joins to mine her sincere good wishes for your and Mrs. Palk's health and happiness. I am, dear Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

"JOS. DU PRÉ."

[No. 109.]

THO[MAS] PALK to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1770, October 9th. Fort St. George.—I miss my friends who sailed in the *Britannia*, especially Mr. Call, with whom I lived from the time I quitted the army. I am now in the office under Mr. Goodlad, but should like to change to the Accountant's branch. From "the intimate friendship that appeared to me to subsist between you and Mr. Hastings it was natural for me to expect he would pay some kind of attention to me, but to my surprize he never once asked me in his house ; though from one in his station, and so superciliously disposed, it is not extraordinary. Mr. Morse is exceeding kind to me and very much my friend." I thank you for the allowance of Pags. 20 per month, which you have made me. My brother in Bengal has been very good in sending consignments of raw silk to me and Mr. James Call jointly. He has lately been appointed to Patna. "I make no doubt, Sir, but you will be surprized to hear that he was, on the 12th June last, married to Miss Stonhouse, sister of Mrs. George Vansittart's, a very agreeable girl, and above all a young lady of sense . . ."

No news has been received of the *Aurora* since she left the Cape ten months ago. "I feel greatly for poor Mrs. Van : the loss of a husband and son<sup>(1)</sup> at once must be a killing stroke to her. Mr. and Mrs. Morse are very deeply afflicted . . ."

(1) Arthur, second son of Henry Vansittart, accompanied his father. The latter, writing from Madeira on the 16th Oct., 1769, says, "Arthur is well, makes a good sailor, takes well to his Persian." (*Brit. Mus. Add. MSS.* 34,686.)

The Governor and Council are much at variance with General Coote and Sir John Lindsay, and the General is about to sail for Bengal. I laid aside the sword with regret and only in deference to the wishes of my friends.

“THO. PALK.”

“P.S.—As I should be very glad to peruse some of the latest of the old news papers and magazines, I hope your goodness will excuse the liberty I take of requesting you will enclose me a few now and then. . .” My respects to the General and “to that good lady Mrs. Bourchier.”

[*Holograph*, 7½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 110.]

WARREN HASTINGS to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1770, October 12th. Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, I wrote to you two letters by the *Anson*, and informed you that I had taken the liberty to consign two bulses of diamonds to you, requesting you to sell them and pay the amount of them, of one to Mrs. Hancock and of the other to Mrs. Ironside, for whose use they were sent. Enclosed are duplicate bills of lading and invoices of both.

“I have since received your favors of the 10th November and 23rd March last, with two recommendations, which I will gladly comply with as far as I am able. Mr. Morse has also communicated to me, by your desire, several letters from you to him and Mr. Van, for which I return you my thanks. I wish I could give you any hope of the *Aurora*, or could form a conjecture that could account for her long absence on the supposition of her safety. I fear it is now impossible.

“I presented your letter to the Nabob, who received it with great demonstrations of friendship both for you and for myself, for which I am obliged to you. I will with great pleasure join Messrs. Morse and Goodlad in the charge of your affairs whenever they shall have any occasion for my assistance. They cannot be in better hands than those they are now in. I am glad to hear that my French bill has been received, and thank you for clearing off so much of my bill due to Sumner.<sup>(1)</sup> The rest I hope is by this time discharged.

“I shall write to you a second letter by this packet, and shall only add in this my desire to be kindly remembered to Mrs. Palk, the General and such of my friends as you shall meet with. I have written a long letter to Mr. Sullivan, which I have desired him to shew you.

“I am, dear Sir, your most obedient and obliged humble servant,

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

“WARREN HASTINGS.”

(1) William Brightwell Sumner. Cf. No. 88, p. 118, note 1.

[No. 111.]

WARREN HASTINGS to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1770, October 12th. Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, This letter requires no apology. I have been informed that his Excellency<sup>(1)</sup> has written a long remonstrance either to the King or to Sir J[ohn] L[indsay] for his M[ajesty]’s information, containing the particulars of all the injuries, indignities and losses which he has sustained from the Company and their Governors since his connection with them; that yourself and Lord Pigot stand among the foremost of these, charged with such high crimes and misdemeanors as, if true, would cost you (to use the expression delivered me) both your heads; and that whatever had been at any time received by either of you from his Excellency as pledges of his benevolence was extorted from him by violence and contrary to his inclination. This information I received *in confidence* from Mr. Brooke,<sup>(2)</sup> by whose permission and desire I repeat it to you, that you may be upon your guard against the effects of such an attack, if it be true that such an one is made upon you. He had it from a friend, who told it to him with authority, having himself received it from some of Sir J. L.’s family who had read the remonstrance. I am told I am also begrimed in the same black list, I am sure without cause.

“Stone has already told you that you could not expect any recommendation of young Griffiths in our general letters. It is peremptorily forbid. But I hope you will have interest to obtain his appointment. He is a good, well tempered, decent boy. He has been lately admitted into Stone’s office, and is as good a hand as Stone has, willing and improvable. He will do credit to the service, and I heartily wish you may be able to place him in it. He lives with me, is stout and healthy, and advances fast towards six feet.

“We are still in peace abroad, but in open war at home. General Coote is returning to England in disgust, because we will not acknowledge his supremacy. Sir J. L. stays, because (as I suppose) his Excellency acknowledges *his* supremacy. Appeals will be made by both to their respective constituents, and all the powers of the Company and of the Crown called upon to punish us for disobedience, contumacy and rebellion. The history of these contests is too long for a letter. I never was concerned in any business in which I was so perfectly satisfied of the propriety of my own conduct as in both these instances, yet I doubt the issue of them at home.

“The Ministry will certainly support Sir J. Lindsay, and if Coote’s friends are in the Direction, they will justify him. Yet I think it impossible to furnish reasons for either. I am very uneasy at the dismal prospects which these contests afford me,

(1) Nawab Walajah.

(2) Henry Brooke. *Vide* No. 31, p. 51, note 2.



and more for other more alarming symptoms which I dare not mention. I have been able to write only to Mr. Sullivan, and to him I have been very explicit.

"I hope I am not unreasonable in desiring your advice and information where you think either may prove of utility to me, as in a thousand instances it would be. I write this in the Council Chamber, and have not time to add more, though I have much that I wish to say to you.

"I am, with a real regard and esteem, dear Sir, your most obedient servant,

[*Holograph*, 3½ pp., 4to.]

"WARREN HASTINGS."

[No. 112.]

REYNO[LD] ADAMS<sup>(1)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1770, October 12th. Fort St. George.—"Dear Sir, . . . Mr. John Palk . . . is arrived safe; has been, since he came, in cantonment at Ponamallee, and is going shortly to the northward. Mr. Thomas Palk is here and very well." I shall render them every service in my power. I hope you duly received the pipe of madeira which I sent you by the *Britannia*.

"Be pleased, Sir, to present my best compliments to Mrs. Palk and to the fair Miss Nancy.<sup>(2)</sup> She may be assured that her house in Fort St. George shall not be neglected, but all possible care taken to preserve and keep it in good repair. . . Bengal has and does groan under a most dreadful famine and pestilence, which has swept off many thousands. . . The *Morse* is not yet arrived. I understand there is a person<sup>(3)</sup> on her appointed to succeed me. I hope I shall not be superseded. . ."

[*Holograph*, 3 pp., 4to.]

"REYNO. ADAMS."

[No. 113.]

NAWAB WALAJAH to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1770, October 12th. Madras.—"I received your letter of the 10th November, and understand the contents. Mr. Vansittart's not being heard of must give you great concern, as it does me and all his friends here. General Coote also is going to Bengal, so that what the Company expected from the great abilities of these gentlemen coming here is come to nothing. The Carnatick is as much exposed and threatened as ever. I am very glad that you, the General and your family are well. I wish you a continuance of health and happiness."

[*Autograph cipher*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 114.]

HENRY BROOKE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., London.

1770, October 12th. Fort St. George.—The mortgage bond of my three houses here will expire in September next. I am

(1) Reynold Adams, a Madras free-merchant of 1764, was appointed Master Attendant (or Harbour Master) in succession to George Baker.

(2) Anne, elder daughter of Governor Palk.

(3) George Taswell, afterwards Master Attendant.

willing to renew for a further period of five years if we can agree as to terms.

“HENRY BROOKE.”

[*Autograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 115.]

NIC[HOLAS] MORSE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1770, October 12th. Fort St. George.—“Since what I mentioned to you concerning General Coote, I have since been told that he designed [to have] gone for Bengal, but that was not allowed, and that [he] has now determined to proceed to Europe, and the *Hawke* man of war [is] to land him at Bussorah, who sails to-morrow. This is the news of the day . . .”

“NIC. MORSE.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 116.]

R[OBER]T D[UNCA]N MUNRO<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1770, October 12th. Madras. —I thank you for your careful execution of the trust placed in you by my deceased father. By the death of Mr. Fergusson<sup>(2)</sup> you are left my only friend in England. My mother and sister join me in good wishes for yourself and family.

“R<sup>T</sup>. D<sup>N</sup>. MUNRO.”

[*Autograph*, 3 pp., 4to.]

[No. 117.]

J[OHN] M[AXWELL] STONE to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1770, October 12th. Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, . . . Our situation becomes every day more precarious. Maudavarow is expected to return as soon as the season will admit in order to make another attempt to reduce Hyder, who warmly solicits our aid; and the Nabob as strenuously urges our joining the Morattas, notwithstanding it is evident that, if Mysore were once reduced to the Moratta yoke, the Carnatic would be constantly exposed to their ravages. They would soon overrun the whole province with their numerous bodies of cavalry without our being able to bring them to action. Our care must be confined to our forts, which must also soon fall for want of revenue to pay the troops for their defence. It should therefore seem that it is not for the interest of the Carnatic that Hyder should be entirely reduced, as he is the only check on the Moratta power in these parts; for while he is in a condition to oppose them we may hope for peace. But it is to be feared that he will scarce be able to withstand the force they can, and probably will, bring against him. . . Although peace ought to

(1) *Vide* No. 33, p. 55, note 2.

(2) William Fergusson. *Vide* No. 3, p. 7, note 2.

be our principal object, and we should strenuously avoid all measures that may tend to involve us in war, yet, if we could assist Hyder effectually, our interest as well as engagements with him would lead us to do so rather than see his country added to the power of the Morattas. But we have not the means within ourselves, and without them it would be imprudent to attempt. For want therefore of ability, we must remain quiet untill we are actually attacked . . .” We had hoped something from the arrival of the Commissioners, but it is feared that some fatal accident has befallen their ship.

“To increase our perplexity and embarrassments we have lately been engaged in very disagreeable altercations with Sir John Lindsay and General Coote . . . On Sir John Lindsay’s arrival the letters and presents from their Majestys were, agreeable to the Company’s orders, delivered to him to be presented to the Nabob. He soon after took an opportunity of acquainting the Governor with the plenipotentiary powers with which he was invested by the King to treat with the Princes of India. His first application to the Board was for them to attend him in the delivery of the letters and presents to the Nabob. This the Board declined, since their acquiescence would have degraded this Government into a mere attendant, and which would not fail lessening its authority in the eyes of the country Powers . . . Sir John Lindsay then required to be put in possession of our original proceedings, or authenticated copies of them, with respect to the Nabob, the Soubah and other Powers of India since the conclusion of the Treaty of Paris, to enable him to make a faithfull report to His Majesty of the rise and progress of the war with the Soubah and Hyder Ally. In answer to which he was told that the whole of our proceedings were transmitted to the Company, to whom application might be made in a regular and proper manner; that we had no authority to expose the records of the Company to the inspection of any individual, and which our oaths and covenants to the Company prevented us from doing. He at last, in the course of his correspondence, required the counsel and advice of the Board to enable him to treat with the Powers of India; and offered the sanction of His Majesty’s name to give weight to our negotiations. To which it was replied that we had all reason to believe the Company were entirely unacquainted with the powers with which he was invested; that we understood from the publick papers and pamphlets that the Ministry did apply to the Court of Directors to give the Commander of His Majesty’s ships in India a seat and voice in their councils abroad; that this proposal was laid before a Court of Proprietors and formally rejected. That we could not therefore agree to what our constituents had refused. This, my dear Sir, is a brief recital of what hath passed with respect to Sir John Lindsay. I shall only add that we begin to feel very sensibly the ill effects of these very extraordinary and unprecedented powers; and if



the Company do not take some measures very speedily, they may bid farewell to all influence and consequence in India.

"I come to General Coote, who arrived here very full of the powers granted him by his commission of Commander-in-Chief, which I must acquaint you is exactly the same as that granted to General Lawrence. He has indeed, by the Company's orders, a power of calling for returns from the several Presidencies, and is authorized to form a general plan of discipline for the whole. The first difficulty which occurred was the manner in which he should be given out in orders. The Board would not consent to his being given out simply as Commander-in-Chief, since the Governor's commission as Commander-in-Chief must thereby be abrogated. It was therefore proposed that the Company's orders of February, 1766, (wherein the powers of the Governor are fully, clearly and positively laid down . . .) should be given out at the same time. To this General Coote objected. . . It was then proposed that circular letters should be wrote by the Board to the several commanding officers, directing them to make returns to General Coote in the same manner as to the Governor, and for them and all others to obey him as their superior officer. This General Coote approved, and letters were wrote accordingly." Shortly afterwards he put forward a plan for the seniority and promotion of officers and their distribution to commands, which, as it ignored the control and approbation of Government, was rejected. The question as to the superiority of his or the Governor's commission was decided in favour of the latter. "General Coote then withdrew, and declared his resolution of remaining here in a private station untill he could receive the sentiments of the other Presidencies respecting his commission. We have sent a particular account of the above correspondence to Bengall, to which place General Coote purposed proceeding; but he has since altered his resolution, and embarks to-morrow on the *Hawke* sloop of war, which Sir John Lindsay has lent him, in order to go to Bussorah, and from there over-land to England. His sudden arrival will no doubt have a strange effect in Leaden Hall Street. A short letter is, however, now wrote to the Company to go by the same way, advising them thereof, and desiring them to suspend their judgment till the arrival of the *Lapwing*.

"I have thus, my dear Sir, given you as particular an account of our situation as time will admit; and I believe you will readily allow that, what with Morattas, Hyder, Sir John Lindsay and General Coote, we have had trouble and vexation enough . . ."

"J. M. STONE."

[*Holograph, 9 pp., f1sep.*]

[No. 118.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1770, October 12th.—“My dear Friend . . . We still continue in peace, but how long it will last I think is very uncertain. It appears to me that the neutral part we have hitherto pursued cannot much longer be supported. The Marattas will not let us be quiet, and our situation is altogether exceedingly critical. We are surrounded with difficulties, and those of a nature which it appears impossible to surmount. The Nabob is totally changed. Presents and letters from the King have turned his brain. He looks for support from thence, and the friendship of the Company seems scarcely a consideration with him. He shews himself every day more independant, and hence springs our grand obstacle. He has an inveterate enmity against Hyder, and wishes to overthrow him even at the ruin of himself. If we must take part in the Mysore quarrel, we ought doubtless to make Hyder our friend—he is the only barrier against the Marattas; but the Nabob will not hear of it, and prefers the Council at any rate to join the Marattas to effect the overthrow of the other, though it is evident that the Carnatic will next fall a prey to them. To join Hyder by ourselves is impracticable: to support the Marattas is impolitic to the last degree. If we could remain as hitherto it would be well, but I must say that I have scarcely a doubt but that in three months the scene will be totally altered. We are bound to see it out. But this is only one of our difficulties.

“Sir John Lindsay arrived here in July, and to our great astonishment declared himself Ambassador and Plenipotentiary from his Majesty to treat with the Princes of India. Such secret, independant and unprecedented powers are truly alarming. The Company (as we imagine) wholly unacquainted with their existance, had been entirely silent on the subject, and the Governor and Council were obliged to withstand the attacks of the Plenipo, and support the cause of their constituents, uninstructed by them in the smallest degree . . . The Company’s loss of influence is every day more visible, and the most trifling exertion of Sir John’s authority will render them cyphers indeed . . . To me it appears that Sir John’s powers strike at the very root of the Company’s existance.

“I have told you . . . how totally the Nabob is changed. You will naturally conclude that the Ambassador’s presence tends not a little to widen the breach with the Company. Every action, every letter from him breathes independance with respect to the Company, and reliance for support on the Crown. Judge then of our situation. We are not the same beings as when you left us.

“But the discription of difficulties does not end here. General Coote came amongst us as Commander in Chief of all the forces in India *under the respective Presidencies*. As such he thought himself supreme and independant, and refused to

submit to the approbation of the Council matters which have ever been within their immediate province. He regarded his commission as superior to that of the Governor, and the arrangement of officers as depending on himself alone. The Governor, who, you well know, bears a commission of Commander in Chief; who the Company have declared to be their superior military officer; who was clearly pointed out as such when the old General and you were amongst us, could not depart from his authority: he had it not in his power to relinquish the trust reposed in him. Dissentions ensued; the point of seniority became the subject of debate. The Council were unanimous in giving it to the Governor. General Coote refused to act, retired as a private gentleman, and is now on his way to Bengal . . .”

What the intentions of the Company were in giving the General his commission it is hard to say. Time will show. “The command of the military must rest in the Board or, if separated, our system must be wholly altered, for the direction of military and political matters cannot be divided: they are inseparable. Take away one, and you must take the other; and consequently the Council, though charged with the protection of the Carnatic, become mere providers of long cloth ordinary.”

13th October.—Coote has since decided on going to Europe, and the *Hawke*, sloop, conveys him to Basra. The Bengal Council are understood to approve our action in regard to both the General and Sir John Lindsay.

“I have said above that the Nabob is totally changed. An instance this moment occurs to prove that he will do every thing in his power to represent the servants of the Company in the worst colours. You remember the orders from home about reducing the interest to 10 per cent. They were positive, and directed the dismissal of all who should lend at an higher rate. His Excellency has just wrote a letter to the Board representing that Charles Smith,<sup>(1)</sup> Monckton,<sup>(2)</sup> &c. (without mentioning other names) have lent money in the Jaguire<sup>(3)</sup> at the accumulating interest of 54 per cent. per annum, which he, *to preserve the Company's possessions from utter ruin*, has made good to them at his own immediate expence. The charge is heavy: that the money was lent is certain, and that the orders of the Company are positive is equally so. It may possibly go hard with them: but will you believe me when I tell you that this money was absolutely lent with the Nabob's

(1) Charles Smith, a Madras civil servant of 1764, was in Council twenty years later. On the suspension of Whitehill in 1780 he served as provisional Governor until Macartney's arrival. He married first Elizabeth Carvalho in 1762, and secondly Frances Law in 1772.

(2) The Hon. Edward Monckton, who entered the Madras civil service in 1762, conducted a mission to Quedah ten years later. He married Sophia, elder daughter of Lord Pigot, in 1776.

(3) The Company's Jaghire (from Pers. and Hind. *jāgīr*, an assignment of land) comprised grants of territory made by Nawab Muhammad Ali in 1750, 1756 and 1763. The area embraced the greater part of the present Chingleput District.



consent, and that there is the strongest presumptive proof that it was actually borrowed by himself! Tis scarcely credible! But a charge like this is nuts to an Ambassador, and a noble bone for the Ministry to get hold of against the Company and their servants . . .”

No payments have been made to the Nawab's creditors. The Commissioners have instructions, but they, alas, have not been heard of since they left the Cape.

“Taken all in all, our situation is critical indeed. The Council, I think, were never so responsible for their conduct as at this juncture: the Nabob doing every thing to thwart them; a Government spy picking holes in their coat on every occasion, and the Commander of the Army bellowing out vengeance because he cannot be supreme. They have need of every support at home. If they meet with it, matters may again be conducted in their former channel. If they fall, a great remove must take place, for they are unanimous in their conduct. Desirous as I am of distinguishing myself in the Company's service, it would concern me to rise by such a step. I shall wait this and other great events with a becoming patience . . .

“Every thing is quiet in Bengal, but the most terrible famine ever known has raged throughout the provinces for many months. Calcutta itself has felt the dreadful effects of it, and when the last letters came away the dead were still laying in heaps about the streets. This has naturally made Calcutta very sickly to the Europeans, and indeed great numbers have been carried off. Tis asserted that more than two millions have been swept away in the different provinces. We have also been very sickly here, and the liver has prevailed more than I ever remember it before. Charles Westcott<sup>(1)</sup> was carried off by it, and many others have been in great danger. Captain Frazer<sup>(2)</sup> is at last no more.

“Your nephew Tom and his cousins are all well. Snelling<sup>(3)</sup> has had the money advanced him which you desired, and a trifle more. I have got him to Pallamcotah, where George Brown<sup>(4)</sup> will take care of him: he is a promising young man . . . The affair which you entrusted to Moodu Kistnah and me shall very shortly be adjusted . . . I now enclose you a bill for £400, being the money given by the Nabob to Withecombe's friends . . .”

“W. M. GOODLAD.”

[*Holograph, 10 pp., 4to.*]

(1) Charles Westcott, a free merchant of 1768, died in September, 1770.

(2) Captain Robert Fraser died in May, 1770.

(3) J. Snelling. *Vide* No. 87, p. 115.

(4) Captain George Brown commanded a battalion of native infantry in the first Mysore war, and was present at the battles of Changama and Trinomalai. In 1780, as Lieut. Colonel, he conducted a Madras force to Surat to join General Goddard's expedition to Guzerat; and in the following year he commanded a brigade in the second battle of Polilur under Sir Eyre Coote.

[No. 119.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN GOODLAD].

1770, December 7th. Received 11th July, 1771, per *Horsenden*.—"My dear Billy, I have both your letters of the 6th February and 8th April.<sup>(1)</sup> I have been long a stranger to the politics in Leadenhall Street, but I could never have conceived the giving up of the Circars to be a part of them, and hope they are wiser than to entertain such a notion, since most of the force may be drawn from them upon occasion, and still Masulipatam, Ganjam, &c., be preserved.

"I am disquieted beyond measure about the safety of the *Aurora*, and begin almost to despair of it . . .

"You do well, my friend, to interest yourself so deeply in the Company's prosperity, and I doubt not in due time your thorough knowledge of their affairs will be amply rewarded.

"The Nabob's creditors' agents have hitherto made little stir in their commission, most of them as individuals being inclined to do as you and others have done in India, and expect justice from the Company, who in the end will certainly give their assistance . . .

"You reason very justly on the subject of Colonel Wood's dismissal, and I wonder the Governor and Council did not, to silence all clamor, make known their reasons for disagreeing with the Court martial and dismissing the Colonel. I have long entertained the same opinion with you of Call: from the moment the conquest of Misore was projected I foresaw the impracticability of the wild plan and dreaded the event, and was heartily sorry our friend B. had so readily submitted his own judgment to such an extravagant idea. That sore is now in some measure healed, and if you could avoid taking part with Hyder or the Marattas, I think we shall soon arrive at our former prospect of prosperity.

"Mr. Bouchier was very well received by the Court of Directors, and having no party to support or enemies to contend with, I think he will very happily enjoy the fruit of his labors among those he loves . . . His father,<sup>(2)</sup> after living to see his sons so happily returned, expired in their arms last week . . .

"We are preparing with all our might for war with Spain, whose Ambassador, however, having full powers to settle the dispute, we have some reason to expect an accommodation, more especially as the French are not prepared for war, their finances being undoubtedly in a much worse state than ours, and their country laboring under a prodigious scarcity of grain and a bad vintage.

"Little Dick<sup>(3)</sup> is all ready for imbarcking . . . No contest this year for Directors. Opposition has been crushed with a

(1) Nos. 91 and 96.

(2) Richard Bouchier, a "seafaring man" of Madras, was appointed Chief at Anjengo in 1743, and subsequently became Governor of Bombay.

(3) Richard Goodlad, brother of W. M. Goodlad.

vengeance, and they make Sullivan the *amende honorable* by readmitting him to their society in April: indeed it seems necessary that there should be somebody there a little acquainted with India matters . . . I am always, my dear Billy, your sincere, affectionate and obliged friend,

“ROBT. PALK.”

[P.S.]—“Thank ye for the bill of 100*l*.”

“12th December.—Alas, my friend, it is but too true that you had no accounts of the *Aurora* the 14th June. Our only small hopes now are on Batavia, or that after attempting the Coast she is gone to the Maldivias or Bengal.

“Two days since I was surprized with an intended appointment of a Mr. Stewart<sup>(1)</sup> to be Secretary at Madras. I acquainted Mrs. Goodlad, and we are trying to prevail on our friends that you may at least have it in your option to remain your own time. They say they mean no ill to you, but the contrary, but that this same gentleman, whom I know not, must be provided for.”

[*Holograph*, 3½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 120.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to W[ILLIA]M M[ARTIN] GOODLAD, Fort St. George.

1770, December 13th. London. Received June 1771, by Mr. Ley.—“Dear Billy, The bearer, Mr. Ley of the *Ponsborne*, being a particular friend, I request your notice of him and advising him of any thing that may be of benefit to him in his voyage. Yours most sincerely,

“ROBT. PALK.”

[*Holograph*, ½p., 4to. *Wax seal with crest, defaced.*]

[No. 121.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to MRS. GOODLAD.

1771, January 4th. Haldon House.—“Dear Madam, Finding Mr. Bouchier’s letter in my possession, ’tis proper to return it to you, as you may think necessary to send it to Billy.

“I have talked to several of the Directors on this subject, and most of them know nothing of the matter, and all seem well inclined to be well pleased and satisfied with the present Secretary; but as Mr. Bouchier thinks Billy wants to be relieved from the post, we must rest satisfied that they will recommend at least his being taken care of. Mr. Bouchier, however, I think must be mistaken that the Governor and Council have requested a perpetual Secretary, for I think Mr. Du Pré and every Governor would chuse to keep the appointment of so material an assistant to himself. However this be,

(1) John Stewart (or Stuart). *Vide* No. 256, p. 252, note 3.



I have no doubt of Billy's deserving the attention of the Directors, and if wrong is done him in this instance they must make amends.

"I am come here from Berkshire for a few days all alone. I wish you and all yours most heartily many, many happy new years; and by the help of pressing, and bad weather, may yet return soon enough to see Mr. Richard before he imbars. If I should not, pray give him my sincerest wishes.

"I am always, dear Madam, your faithful and obliged humble servant,

"ROBT. PALK."

[*Holograph*, 1½ p., 4to.]

[No. 122.]

REYNO[LD] ADAMS to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1771, January 21st. Fort St. George.—Received 12th July. "Dear Sir, . . Mr. and Mrs. Morse are both well but much afflicted, as well as myself, at the non-arrival of the *Aurora*, which we are much affraid leaves very little hope of her safety, notwithstanding the supposition of her having gone to the Brazils . . . Mr. Tom Palk and his two cousins to the northward are well . . . One Mr. Taswell, who, I apprehend, you have heard of, is come out to succeed me in my employ,<sup>(1)</sup> and I hear is arrived at Bombay. This, I am informed, is in consequence of a report that I was about to come home, though I never dropped a hint of such a thing, nor can I entertain any thoughts of that sort for some years to come." I hope you will prevent my supersession.

Captain Madge is anxious that the collections on account of Captain Cranch's estate should be remitted. Two methods offer; Company's bills at 8s. 5d. per pagoda payable in three years without interest, or private bills at 7s. 4d. from Pelling and de Fries payable in 90 days. The former method appears the more favourable, but as cash must be paid in dollars, which are hard to procure, I am remitting by private bill.

"REYNO. ADAMS."

[*Holograph*, 3½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 123.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1771, January 22nd. Fort St. George. Received 12th July.—I have not time to write, as the ship *Houghton* sails to-day and I have much to do. "My brother Bob is married, of which I imagine he has acquainted you with. My love to Mrs. P. and family. Your most dutifull, &c., nephew,

"THOMAS PALK."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

(1) As Master Attendant, *i.e.*, Harbour Master, at Madras.

[No. 124.]

ENSIGN J[OHN] PALK to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1771, February 2nd. Camp near Samulcotah.—“ Sir, After the great kindnesses and civilities I received from you while in London it would be ingrateful in me should I omit any opportunity of letting you hear from me. . . We sailed from Spithead the 11th of January with a fair wind that carried us clear of the Channel and to the Island Madeira in three weeks. We stopped there 10 days, during which time I found the place very agreeable, the English merchants residing there being very hospitable people.

“ After having sailed from Madeira we had a pleasant passage untill doubling the Cape of Good Hope, where we meet with severe weather and were harassed about for some weeks, in which time we had the misfortune to loose several topmasts and to have our rigging damaged much, so that it was no small satisfaction to all on board to double that dangerous promontory. We had a very pleasant passage the remaining part of the time we stayed on board ship, and arrived at Johanna<sup>(1)</sup> the 25th of May. On our landing we found the island very pleasant and agreeable. Having stopped there five days, we sailed for Madrass and landed safe on the 30th of June to the great joy of all the passengers. I was much surprised to find the Supervisors had not been seen on the Coast nor heard of, and am sorry to tell you that they are now given over for lost . . .

“ On my landing I meet with my cousin, who behaved very kind and genteel to me. . . The letter you was so kind as to give me to Mr. Dupré, after several applications got me changed from General Coote’s regiment at Poonamallee that was formed of this year’s recruits, where I was first appointed, into Captain Madge’s battalion of seapoys at Samulcotah. I am very much pleased with the situation, and likewise with my commanding officer, who, I find, is worthy of the great character I have heard given him in England.

“ I have not seen my brother yet, but expect to see him in a few days, as he is coming down from Condapillee in order to join these six companies that are encamped near Samulcotah, waiting for orders to march against the Totapillee Rajah, who refuses to comply with the Company’s demands in paying his tribute. It is thought we shall have a despirate service of it, as we shall be obliged to pursue them over the mountains, which are very unhealthy, and where Europeans never were before.

“ General Coote behaved very kind to me, and I believe would have done anything to serve me ; but his power here was very little on account of the Governor and Council, who took every step in their power to thwart his designs. A story prevails here that he is coming out again. I could wish it were true.

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(1) One of the Comoro Islands in the Mozambique Channel.

“ At present every thing is quiet at the southward. There was a Morattoo war expected this season in the Carnatic, but I believe at this time it is all hushed up. I am, Sir, with the greatest respect, your much obliged and most humble servant,

“ J. PALK.”

[*Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to. Wax seal with Palk arms and crest.*]

[No. 125.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honourable ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1771, February 5th. Fort St. George.—The Merchants have delivered a great part of the goods for the Company's Investment. In Bengal there has been good rain and grain is fairly cheap, though trade is bad. The news from Manila is that our people have sold the “ blue goods,” but could not dispose of the “ paintings<sup>(1)</sup> and chey goods.”<sup>(2)</sup> At Pondicherry affairs are stationary through want of money.

“ Madavarave with his large force came as far as the river Kistna. His intention was to distroy Hyder first, then to trouble us for money if we don't give him assistance ; but in the meantime he had some family disputes, which obliged him to return back to his country. . . Hyder is at Mysore, and unable to beat off the Marattys that are in his country. . . I can do nothing with Jangama Chitty. He is very poor, and remains in prison for money due to Mr. Lewen Smith . . .”

“ CHOCAPAH.”

[*Autograph, 1½ p., flscp.*]

[No. 126.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to R[OBERT] PALK, Esqr.

1771, February 7th. Fort St. George.—“ His Excellency [*i.e.* the Nawab] seems rather more reconciled to his old friends. This, however, is regarded as a mere temporising scheme till he can see what turn affairs will take at home. We are in peace, and I think have nothing to fear during 1771. The Nabob has promised to pay 10 lacks to his creditors during the year . . .”

“ W. M. GOODLAD.”

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to.*]

[No. 127.]

THO[MAS] PALK to ROB[ERT] PALK, Esqr.

1771, February 8th. Fort St. George.—“ I continue still in Mr. Goodlad's office, the business of which I do with a great deal of ease to myself, and I hope with a deal of satisfaction to my Secretary. The Carnatic at present remains very quiet, but the Morattoes have lately demanded the assistance of our arms ; who have been refused . . . The Morattoes are now this

(1) Paintings, *i.e.*, chintz coloured by hand or stamped with wood blocks.

(2) Chey, chay, from Tam. *saya*, a plant whose root furnishes a fine red dye.



side the Khistna and will very shortly move, 'tis feared, towards the Carnatic. They have carried their conquests a great way into the Mysore country, having plundered and destroyed the country to the very gates of his capital, and Hyder remains shut up in Seringapatam . . .

"I make no doubt but my brother has long since acquainted you with his change of life. I have received many very pressing invitations to visit them, which I intend to do, and go down in one of the September ships. All my country men in the military are well, and very fine young fellows. My friend Major Fitz-Gerald takes his passage on the *Van-Sittart*, who was always kind to me . . ."

"THO. PALK."

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 128.]

THO[MAS] PALK to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1771, February 8th. On board the *Vansittart*.—Letter of introduction for Major Thomas FitzGerald.<sup>(1)</sup>

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 129.]

LIEUT. THOMAS PALK to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1771, February 26th. Camp at Ragapatam.—I was relieved at Condapilly in January, and on the 9th February I joined Captain Madge at Samulcotah. He took the field against some refractory poligars. "On the 20th we left Samalcottah with 6 companies of seapoys and 2 guns against the Polygars who had occasioned the rupture, and are now advanced 50 miles into their country, which is the most romantic I ever saw, being covered with high mountains intercepted with pleasant valleys, where are fine villages abounding with plenty of grain. The Rajah of the country on hearing of our approach fled to his strong holds further in among the hills. We have meet with no opposition as yet from any of his people; on the contrary, numbers have excepted [*sic*] of the company's cowl,<sup>(2)</sup> and put themselves under our protection . . . so that in all probability the country will be soon settled and the Rajah drove out of it . . .

"By the last accounts from Bengall it is reported that hostilities are commenced between Surajah Dowla<sup>(3)</sup> and the Company . . . General Coote left India last November very much dissatisfied with the reception he meet with from the President and Council at Madrass . . .

"My brother was appointed to this battalion in November last and joyned Captain Madge at Samalcotah soon after, who has behaved excessive kind to him. He has made him a present

(1) *Vide* No. 144, p. 156.

(2) *Cowl*. *Vide* No. 14, p. 18, note 10.

(3) Shuja-ud-daula, Nawab Vizier of Oudh.

of a horse and shewed him many other civilities . . . I have been honoured with but one letter from you since your return to England. I seldom miss an opportunity of writing you, and should think myself highly honoured were I to hear oftner in return . . .”

[*Holograph*, 3 pp., 4to.]

“THOMAS PALK.”

[No. 130.]

ROBERT PALK to MESSRS. STONE and GOODLAD, Secretaries at Fort St. George.

1771, March 14th. London.—“Gentlemen, I beg leave to recommend to you Mr. Willet, Secretary to Sir Robert Harland,<sup>(1)</sup> who being quite a stranger, your notice and assistance will be of much use to him. I cannot think or write much on other matters in this state of great uncertainty of the *Aurora's* safety.”

“ROBT. PALK.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to. *Wax seal, device defaced.*]

[No. 131.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honorable ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1771, March 23rd. Fort St. George.—There are reports from England via Basra that war is about to break out in Europe. Our Manila ship has arrived, bringing upwards of 200,000 dollars. Half as much again was sent to China on Madras account.

“The Nabob made a grand wedding for his elder son,<sup>(2)</sup> and is going to make another wedding to his second son.<sup>(3)</sup> The wedding was very expensive and with the greatest pomp and magnificence. We think we shall have no trouble at all with the Marrattys this year; and there are now some disputes arising between the Nabob and the King of Tonjore, but I hope this will be made up in an amicable manner.”

The Merchants have fulfilled the Investment contract. Most of the goods have been delivered into the Company's warehouse, and the balance is ready for sorting.

[*Autograph*, 1 p., *flscp.*]

“CHOCAPAH.”

[No. 132.]

CUSTOORY and CASAVAH to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1771, March 25th. Fort St. George.—Our family has sustained a great loss by the death of “our poor Rama Kisna”<sup>(4)</sup> on the 9th February. Our chief anxiety is to preserve his Charity Choultry, and we beg you to write to Mr. Hastings about it.

[1½ p., 4to.]

“CUSTOORY and CASAVAH.”

(1) Admiral Sir Robert Harland, Bt., succeeded Sir John Lindsay, arriving at Madras in September, 1771.

(2) Umdat-ul-Umarā.

(3) Amīr-ul-Umarā.

(4) *Cf.* No. 77, p. 104.

[No. 133.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1771, March 26th. Fort St. George.—I have received your letter of the 16th June,<sup>(1)</sup> and rejoice that Mr. Bouchier's reception was friendly. Your remarks about Calland are just : he will probably return here this year.

"His Excellency has promised to pay ten lacks of his debt in the course of the year, and the whole in fourteen months should peace continue . . . When you express your surprise that the Governor and Council ever gave their sanction to the Assignment, I know not what to make of you, for the Assignment was actually made during your government. It bears date the 1st January, 1767, and the letter from the Nabob promising such Assignment was received in the month preceding, so that you were consenting. This circumstance, I imagine, must have escaped your memory."

I have written to Mr. Purling as you suggested, and hope he may get my brother Richard to Bengal this year.

"Although your last letter is silent on the subject of the person<sup>(2)</sup> concerning whom you wrote to Moodu Kistnah and me . . . , I have lately had an interview with him. The terms are settled agreeable to your recommendation, and by the next ship I shall write you the particulars. I have not yet drawn on Mr. Morse on this account. Every thing has been managed as you could wish, and nothing will transpire.

"By great good management we still continue in peace, but we are surrounded with embarrassments, and you cannot conceive a Government more harassed and perplexed. But for unanimity amongst ourselves every thing would be in the utmost confusion. In this respect we are happy, and have men of ability at the head of affairs. The Marattas and Hyder still continue hard at it, and though the latter has lately suffered a considerable defeat, he is not rendered incapable of prolonging the war and giving them infinite trouble. This may probably prevent their molesting us for some time, though we are not without our apprehensions, for the late conduct of Tanjour indicates a promise of support from some quarter, and we know not whence it can come but from them. He has lately marched a very large force against the Marawar,<sup>(3)</sup> and even laid siege to the capital (Ramanadaporum). A compromise then ensued, and he has returned to Tanjour. Though necessity obliged us to look on upon this occasion, we were by no means silent, and it is said that the Rajah's return was owing to our letters ; but this will never serene him. The Treaty of 1762 with Tanjour obliges us to support the cause of the Nabob. Marawar is his tributary, and an attack might as well have been made upon

(1) *Vide* No. 98, p. 129.

(2) *Royal Punt or Rajah Pundit. Cf.* No. 70, p. 97, and No. 78, p. 108.

(3) *The Marawar. Vide* No. 19, p. 26, note 2.



the Carnatic. Preparations have accordingly been made for calling him to account. Joe Smith<sup>(1)</sup> is gone for Trichenopoly, and unless his Rajahship makes very humble submissions, blows must ensue. But this is a most critical business. Circumstances are not wanting to render it dangerous at any rate. If we commence hostilities, we lay open to the Marattas; Fazul Beg Cawn<sup>(2)</sup> threatens the Circars, and advices from Busserà give us reason to expect a national war. If we continue quiet, the Nabob's Government is calmly suffered to be invaded; we are wanting in attention to the *Treaty of Paris*, which ensures the peace of the Carnatic; and the natural conclusion is that, were the Carnatic itself attacked, we should be equally passive. These are ministerial speeches from the mouth of our Minister Plenipotentiary. He has lately wrote a letter accusing us of this latter conduct. The answer is:—‘We account to our superiors for what we do’; and my gentleman is left just as wise as he was before. The N[abob]’s conduct has latterly born more the appearance of confidence in us than it has before since Sir John’s arrival, but it is evident to me that he is merely temporising. Matters cannot much longer continue in this state. The orders from home must be decisive one way or the other. Our authority and influence must be restored, or we must be reduced as formerly to mere providers of long cloth ordinary.

“In Bengal matters look threatening. A brigade is watching the Marattas: Cossim<sup>(3)</sup> has collected a rabble of Pitans and Rohillas with some disciplined seapoys under a soldier of fortune, and is now to the northward of Delli, prepared to join the Morattas should they invade the provinces. The generality of people suspect that war must shortly ensue.

“From this sketch (run off in an hurry) you will be able to form some judgment of the present posture of affairs—Nabob, Plenipo, Tanjour, Marattas, Fazul Beg Cawn, Bengal—the letters from the Court totally unconfidential, and the Council left entirely without orders to guide them. Can you call to your recollection circumstances half so intricate? Our friend Bouchier would have sunk under the weight of them. Du Pré, though indefatigable, is almost harassed to death; Hastings knows not which way to turn himself, and the Secretaries (for I am employed in all departments) have not a moment that they dare call their own. Glorious times! Happy circumstances! . . .”

“W. M. GOODLAD.”

“P.S. 12 at night.—I have with much concern received intelligence just now that Lieut. Thomas Palk died at Ellore the 20th instant . . .”

[*Holograph, 7 pp., 4to.*]

(1) General Joseph Smith.

(2) Fāzil Beg Khān, the Nizam’s *bakhshi*.

(3) Kāsim Ali Khān. *Vide* No. 92, p. 122, note 2.

[No. 134.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN GOODLAD].

1771, April 2nd. London.—“My dear Billy, ”I have received your letter of the 12th and 13th October.<sup>(1)</sup> “I suppose we shall hear more of the contents of them when Coote arrives : hitherto he has not been heard of. The Court of Directors judged they had given him the same powers with General Lawrence ; but as there is hardly amongst the Directors any who consider these matters attentively or endeavor to make themselves masters of the Company’s affairs, such jarring orders and resolutions must always be the consequence. I was amazed when I heard they had appointed Coote to sit as one of the Commissioners. I took an opportunity to remonstrate against the measure, and I thought they had altered it . . . They are now, I hear, sending up a remonstrance to the King against his intermeddling, and I suppose the commanding officer will be told not to interfere, because the natural consequence must be the destruction of the Company’s authority. They talk, I hear, of sending out more Commissioners, but I know not where they are to look for them.”

I told you of the intention to send out a Mr. Stewart as<sup>(2)</sup> Secretary. This I was able to prevent, and I said much in your favour. Hastings has been proposed for Bengal, and I supported him, but Mr. Rumbold’s<sup>(3)</sup> interest appears to prevail.

“The loss of the *Aurora*, for I now give her entirely up, is a most severe stroke indeed to all this family. Henry VanSittart goes a Writer to Bengal in the *Colebrooke*. I hope you correspond fully with Mr. Purling, who, I find, is to be the next Chairman. For once there is to be no contest at the next election. Sullivan comes in singly with the consent of all parties. I should have thought, after all that is passed and in such times as these, he had better have relinquished so troublesome and, to him, so very unprofitable an employ. However, it is to him the *summum bonum* . . .”

“ROBT. PALK.”

[Holograph, 3½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 135.]

COLONEL GILBERT IRNSIDE<sup>(4)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1771, April 7th. Fort William.—“Sir, I cannot let the earliest occasion escape of rendering my sincerest acknowledgements for your polite and friendly offers to Mrs. Ironside, whose happiness, of every thing on this side heaven, lies nearest my heart.

(1) *Vide* No. 118, p. 145.(2) John Stewart. *Vide* No. 256, p. 252, note 3.(3) Thomas Rumbold, afterwards Governor of Madras. *Vide* No. 320, p. 315, note 4.(4) Gilbert Ironside. *Vide* No. 94, p. 124, note 2.

“My request to Mr. Van Sittart to furnish her with money was made at a time when I had no opportunity to make the remittances I wished. I have since found means to get home a few thousand pounds; but still, should any unexpected and pressing necessity require a sudden supply, your favouring her with it will confer an essential obligation on me.

“That we shall ever see the Supervisors I now totally despond; but that some tidings of their unhappy fate may still reach us is not, I think, altogether improbable. It has been long believed and currently reported that an outward bound French Indiaman desiered the wreck of a vessel off Madagasear, which conjecture led to surmise might be of the *Aurora*: and on that presumption that some frigates were ordered from Bombay to cruise round that island for further discoveries . . .

“About the 14th of February arrived the *Dolphin*, a King’s frigate, at Madras. Captain Dent brought with him, we hear, two red ribbands for General Coote and Sir John Lindsay, with powers and instructions to the Nawab of Arcot to invest them with the Order of the Bath. Also credentials to the Commodore to act as his Majesty’s Plenipotentiary to all the European Powers in India. General Coote returned home the latter end of last year by way of Bussorah . . .

“George, who is a sad idle fellow in every thing but downright plodding business,” asks me to obtain for you the second volume of the Code of Muhammadan Law. It may be among some oriental manuscripts with Mrs. Ironside, who will submit them to you. Meanwhile I will try to procure the volume in India.

“Both George and Palk are at Patna I believe. . . My latest letters from thence pronounce them all well, and the ladies, as all ladies should be, in a promising way. Permit me to request you will make my best wishes acceptable to Mrs. Palk and my old commander General Caillaud, whom I very affectionately remember . . .”

“GILBERT IRNSIDE.”

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 136.]

[Copy of a] PAR[AGRAP]H of a G[ENERA]L L[ETTE]R [Endorsed]  
“No. 4.”

. 1771, April 10th.—“Observing that you have appointed Mr. Palk one of the Board of Revenue at Patna, we cannot but express our astonishment that you should have given a post of that consequence to a person who had behaved so unbecomingly in the affair of the overcharge and abuses committed at the cantonments of Burampore, and who, since his being pardoned for that offence, had not given you proof sufficient of his integrity to justify you in making such an appointment. We therefore



direct that he be recalled from that station upon receipt hereof, and employed in his proper rank in our service at Calcutta."

[1 p., 4 to. *This copy may perhaps have formed an enclosure to No. 220.*]

[No. 137.]

[ROBERT PALK] to his Excellency the NAWAB WALAJAH.

1771, April 17th.—I have received your letter of the 12th October.<sup>(1)</sup> I grieve for the loss of Mr. Vansittart on your account as well as my own, for he contemplated the promotion of your interest together with that of the Company.

"I have often repented not staying longer in India. On many accounts it was necessary, but you know that, seeing my services were not so well received here as I thought they deserved, I determined to make room for Mr. Bouchier, whom I wished to be more fortunate; but surely no man could take more pains than myself, or was ever better inclined to labor day and night to do my duty both to the Company and yourself. I watched over their expences and yours with the most scrupulous and unceasing attention, and how far I succeeded must be left to the Company and yourself to judge.

"A squadron of good ships is now sent to India, commanded by Sir Robert Harland, a gentleman of great experience, and who, I hope, will be able to co-operate in the most effectual preservation of the peace in India. A regiment is also appointed here to raise the best soldiers to be sent out as recruits: all which will shew that neither his Majesty nor the Company are neglectful of proper measures. I only wish that harmony as well as great abilities may be established in the right use of them.

"By the eldest son of Mr. Vansittart, who is obliged to seek his fortunes abroad, I send this letter, and also a new Persian grammar for your acceptance. A new dictionary by the same author is soon to be published, and shall also be sent to you. General Lawrence and Mrs. P[alk] add their good wishes to mine for the continuance of your health and the prosperity of the whole family."

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4 to. Unsigned draft in Palk's hand.*]

[No. 138.]

HENRY VANSITTART, jun. to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., at Edmund Boehm's, Esqr., Size Lane, London.

1771, May 22nd. Madeira.—"Dear Sir, Deferring all other intelligence for a further opportunity, I send you the account only of my health and arrival here last Sunday, the 19th, by a King's packet, which goes by the way of the West Indies. As the other conveyance will most probably be the earliest, I

(1) *Vide* No. 113, p. 141.

shall by that forward a more enlarged account of what has happened.

"Belive me your dutiful nephew,      HENRY VANSITTART."

"P.S.—The Packet sails in a few hours."

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to. Wax seal with the Vansittart arms.*]

[No. 139.]

CAPTAIN T[HOMAS] MADGE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

[Endorsed in Palk's hand] "Account of the Death of Thomas and John Palk."

1771, June 15th. Ellore.—"Dear Sir, My last letter concluded with some accounts of your two cousins, which did honor to their family as well as themselves. It was, however, the last opportunity allowed me to speak of them with satisfaction unalloyed with regret, for very shortly after the despatch of the letter dated from the unwholsome hills which terminate our possessions in the Circars, a pestilential disorder broke out amongst the detachment under my command, which in less than the space of three weeks destroyed two thirds of the Europeans that composed it, and has rendered the condition of those that have survived it little deserving the estimation of existence from the havoc it has made in our constitutions, many of which are irrecoverably ruined !

"The end of the expedition into those fatal hills having been accomplished by the successfull effort to surprise the Pollygar by Lieut. Palk, we retired from them the fourth day after his again joining the main body of the detachment, congratulating ourselves on having escaped the disorder so generally experienced in those hills by all strangers who reside any time amongst them. But we had not made one day's march into the open country till it began to shew it had got footing amongst us. Your two cousins and myself were the first officers it affected, and as they appeared to be more so than me, I sent them down to Rajamundry recommended to Mr. Wynch, who at that time resided there on account of settling the revenues of the Circars, and had a surgeon to attend him. The business of the service would not admit of my availing myself of the assistance of a surgeon, and obliged me to remain so long in the field that when I got to Rajamundry my condition was pronounced too dangerous by the doctor to admit of my proceeding any further. Your two cousins had almost recovered their health under his management, and were at last thought so far out of danger as to run no risk from proceeding to Ellore, whither they were in consequence sent with some other officers and soldiers under charge of a surgeon. They arrived at Ellore the 18th of March last in a very promising way for recovery ; but the day after their arrival the disorder took an unfavorable turn, and in spite of every possible assistance carried off the eldest almost suddenly : the youngest survived his brother but four days

only. The disorder had gained so much ground on me from neglecting it that it was thought impossible for me to survive it many days after my coming to this place, during which time the fate of my two young friends was kept a secret from me. They had, however, all the attendance possible from the surgeons, who never left them for a moment whilst they could be of service to them, but the disorder soon rose superior to medicine and baffled all their skill. After three relapses I have at last some hopes that I have entirely got the better of the disorder, but have suffered so much from its malignant effects in my constitution that I fear I shall never again recover my former state of health. Out of twenty Europeans two only escaped the disorder, and eight only that were infected by it survived it!

"The concern this unfortunate event must give their mother and every individual of their family may be partly conceived from the universal regret it has occasioned amongst your cousins' slightest acquaintance in India. The gentle manners of the eldest had so much endeared him to me that I cannot refrain from tears whenever I reflect on his untimely fate. I shall endeavor to pay the most essential tribute to their memory and your friendship in my power on the occasion by taking care of their estate, which when collected together will, I hope, amount to nearly 2,000 pags., a sum few subalterns can boast of having honestly acquired in so short a time as the eldest was in the service, and I think does as much honor to his prudence as it will afford satisfaction to his friends . . .

"I have desired your nephew at Madrass to administer to their estate, as there is no will; to whom I shall remit the amount of it as I receive it. And I hope you will have no objection to the money's being paid to your attornies in India, nor to your remitting it to their mother in Cornwall as soon as they advise you of its having been received by them in India."

I see no prospect of early promotion, owing partly to supersessions from England and partly to our being saddled with the newly created corps of engineers, who will probably claim a share of "off-reckonings." My best respects to Mrs. Palk and General Lawrence.

"T. MADGE."

[*Holograph, 6 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 140.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.].

1771, July 21st, Fort St. George. "My dear Friend, . . . Your apprehensions for the *Aurora* . . . are but too justly founded, for it is beyond a doubt that she must have been lost. Circumstances give reason to think that she struck on a reef of rocks off the N.E. end of Madagascar, but we have no certain accounts . . .



"All disputes with the Nabob's creditors have been for some months at an end. The President and Council discharged their duty amply. They insisted on the preference, and obtained the payment of all they were authorised to demand and insist on; for false representations had so much weight with the Court that the Nabob had consented to the payment of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the charges of the Mysore war. Their orders did not authorise demanding it. The Nabob, who has intelligence *from home* of all that passes, had learnt their sentiments, and refused to make good his agreement. He defrayed the current charges, and then stopped. The Council had no further demand on him, and upon his proposing to pay 10 lacks to his creditors they readily consented . . .

"Private advices tell us that the sentence of Wood's court-martial is approved, and that he is restored. Had he been restored without approval of the sentence, we should all have acquiesced with pleasure; but . . . reversing an Act of Government is a humiliation to that Government: it weakens its faculties and impairs its honor. . . . But perhaps it is intended that the faculties of Government should be weakened. In that case . . . where will be the authority over the military in future? . . ."

When I last wrote the Tanjore situation was precarious, as the Rajah had palpably violated the treaty of 1762. "We were pressed on every side to call him to account, and urged to measures which must have involved us in endless difficulties. An immediate attack upon Tanjore was repeatedly urged by the Nabob and the Ambassador; but the consequences were too apparent for such a scheme to be rashly entered into, and it was evident that the plan from first to last was intended purposely to oblige us to assist the Marattas against Hyder—the favourite system of the Nabob and the adopted plan of his champion (the Ambassador). . . . The Council therefore refused compliance, but promised to call Tanjore to account when circumstances would admit. Everything necessary for such an expedition has accordingly been prepared at Trichenopoly, and our readiness declared; but mark the end. The stimulators and advisers of the measure, seeing that we will not be forced into their plan, draw in their horns, and when the Nabob is told we are ready to undertake the expedition, his apprehensions of the Marattas are declared, and he cannot venture on such an enterprise at the risk of an invasion. . . . Thus we stand at present: we have avoided the junction with the Marattas, we have not assisted Hyder, and we continue in peace. But Tanjore must finally be called to account. . . . The two Marwaris and Tondeman<sup>(1)</sup> have felt the effects of his arms, and unless he be checked, what may not be the consequence in the end?"

I am pleased at Sullivan's return to the Directorate and at

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(1) *Vide* No. 19, p. 26, notes 1, 2 and 4.

Bourchier's good reception. I should be mortified if I were moved from my post as Secretary, which I would not exchange for anything short of a seat in Council. I have offered to become a regular correspondent of Mr. Purling. The *Ponsborne's* stay was so brief that Mr. Ley could not land, so I recommended him to my brother Anthony in Bengal. The death of Lieut. Palk and his brother is deeply regretted by me. Your nephew Tom has been on a trip with the General<sup>(1)</sup> to Trichinopoly.

"You will see by your account current what has been done in the affair you recommended to me to settle. I can only say at present that nothing, not one syllable, has transpired, and I have acquittals of the most ample nature should anything of the matter be talked of hereafter. . . ."

[*Holograph*, 12 pp., 4to.]

"W. M. GOODLAD."

[No. 141.]

HENRY VANSITTART, jun., to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1771, October 3rd, Cape of Good Hope. "Dear Sir,—After our departure from Madeira the 5th of June we have chiefly met with either contrary winds or calms after the latitude of 8 South. We saw the Canary and Cape de Verd Islands, and crossed the Line the middle of July. About a month afterwards we saw the coast of Brazil at Rio des Ilhos, a little below the Bay de Todos Santos. We spoke with the *Britannia* the 1st of September, who left England the 23rd of June. We arrived in False Bay the 22nd of September, which is about 20 miles distant overland from the Cape Town. The old Governor died a few weeks ago, and a deputy is appointed till advices are received from Holland. The *Lord Holland* sailed from hence the 12th, and the *Hampshire* the 24th. The *Britannia* goes to-morrow, and the *Colebrooke* the next day if possible. A French ship bound to Mauritias came in the 25th and sailed yesterday. Sir Robert Fletcher<sup>(2)</sup> and Captain Parker<sup>(3)</sup> proceed from hence in the *Britannia* to

(1) General Joseph Smith.

(2) Robert Fletcher was engaged locally as a monthly Writer in Madras in May, 1757, but was shortly afterwards commissioned as Ensign. In 1760 he was dismissed for insubordination, but was reinstated at the instance of Eyre Coote. Captain Fletcher served as Brigade Major in the Manila expedition of 1762, and in the following year was transferred to Bengal as Major. In 1766 Lieut.-Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher, who was then commanding one of the three brigades of the Army, supported the junior officers who combined to protest against the withdrawal of Mir Jafar's special grant of batta. He was tried by court-martial and cashiered. Returning to England, he obtained reinstatement on the recommendation of Lawrence and Caillaud, and he was posted to Madras as Colonel. Succeeding General Joseph Smith in the command of Army in 1772, he proved so obstructive in Council that he was ordered to Trichinopoly by Du Pré's Government. He claimed to resume his seat in Parliament and returned to England. In 1775 Sir Robert Fletcher again arrived in Madras as Brigadier General, took command of the Army, and supported the Majority of Council against Lord Pigot, in whose deposition he assisted. In 1776 he sailed for the Cape on sick leave, and died on the way at Mauritius.

(3) Probably Captain J. N. Parker, who as Lieut.-Colonel won the battle of Bomorey in June, 1776.

Anjango, and from thence overland to Madrass for the sake of expedition. I lodge with Captain Morris at Mr. La Febre's, but proceed to-morrow to False Bay. I have been used very civilly by the captain and the rest of the passengers. Mr. Johnson presents his compliments to you. Pray give my love to Mrs. Palk, and remember me to Nancy and Lawrence. I am your dutiful nephew.

“HENRY VANSITTART.”

[*Holograph, 1 p., f1scp.*]

[No. 142.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1771, October 4th, Fort St. George. I have not heard from you for some time, and am impatient for a reply to my letter of the 13th October, 1770<sup>(1)</sup> by the *Lapwing*, as I think the fate of the Company will depend on the turn of affairs at home after the receipt of the advices by that ship.

By the *Duke of Portland*, which sailed in July last, I gave you a history of the Tanjore affair.<sup>(2)</sup> “We were then prepared to call the Rajah to account, and waited only for the concurrence of the Nabob to set an expedition on foot. From his behavior at that time I confess that I little expected he would have been brought to act at all, for, baulked in his darling plan of an immediate attack in hopes of introducing the Marattas and thereby obliging us to join them against Hyder, he seemed resolved to pass over the Rajah's conduct rather than call him to account at a time which, however it might promise success, clashed with his favourite project. But matters had gone too far for him to recede, and it was evident to himself as well as his champion that they could not justify inaction. . . . After many objections on his part and repeated urging on ours he at length resolved to commence a negotiation, and we promised to support his demands by a force sufficient to reduce the capital, even should those demands be refused. . . . He would not stir one step till we totally relinquished every idea of becoming mediators in consequence of the guarantee of 1762, and he refused to act unless the negotiation were left wholly and solely to himself. . . . Upon this footing, therefore, was the expedition undertaken. The eldest son proceeded with full powers to negotiate or proceed to hostilities as occasion might require: the second son set forward charged with supplying the army with provisions: and the English army, the finest I believe that the Company ever had in the field, proceeded as mere auxiliaries, to act hostile or otherwise as the eldest should think eligible. How I feel when I reflect on the situation we are reduced to! . . .

“The last convoy and the last detachment . . . reached the banks of the Coleroon about the 24th August, but a most

(1) *Vide* No. 118, p. 115.

(2) *Vide* No. 140 p. 162.



untimely swelling of the river prevented their crossing for many days, and it was not till the 12th September that the whole force proceeded from Trichenopoly. Demands on the Rajah had been made and refused previous to their marching from thence. Hostilities were consequently commenced, and the army proceeded with very little interruption to Vellam (about 6 miles N.W. from Tanjore), where they arrived on the 16th. The place refused to surrender, and it cost four or five days to reduce it, but the acquisition was great indeed, for (Vellour excepted) there is not so strong a fort in the Carnatic. . . . Our army reached Tanjour the 23rd in the morning, and it is expected that batteries must have been opened about the 3rd instant. In that case our accounts give us reason to think it cannot hold out above a fortnight more. . . . Should Tanjore fall, and fall I think it must, how glorious a stroke for the Company, how fatal a blow to the French! Could there be so dangerous an enemy as one in the heart of the Carnatic? Could there be so noble an ally for the French? . . ."

Notwithstanding his late defeat, Hyder still keeps the Marathas at bay, so we have little to fear from the latter at present. The Circars are peaceful and the Nizam quiet. We are providing great part of the Investment from the Circars. Sir John Lindsay's recall has, I hope, put an end to disputes with the Ambassador. Sir Robert Harland possesses the same powers, but desires harmony.

"I know not what to say to you on the subject of affairs in Bengal. . . . The King resolved many months ago to throw himself into the hands of the Marattas upon their offer to seat him on the throne of Delli. He set forward accordingly, but the rains and the uncertainty of the real intentions of the Marattas detained him on the frontiers of the Corah<sup>(1)</sup> Province till very lately. He is now again set forward, the Marattas having delivered over the city and fort of Delli to his officers. You will allow that it is hard to judge what may be the event, but troubles I think must ensue should the Marattas assume his name, and make that a cloak for their depredations. . . .

"10th October. Since writing the former part of this letter we have news from Tanjore. The enemy made a most vigorous sally on the 1st instant upon the covering party, but were repulsed with great loss after continuing the attack from  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 in the morning till 3 in the afternoon. Our battery opened on the 2nd, and by the 3rd at night the fire from the fort was much reduced. Every thing promises fair . . . but they will never lose the fort but by storm, and the issue of such an event is always uncertain. . . ."

I do not feel satisfied with my own position, though I would not change it for any other outside the Council. Still, I have had over nine years' service, and see little prospect of reaching Council in nine more. "Must I be contented to drudge on

(1) Corah (Korā) a district of Oudh. Cf. No. 227, p. 231, note 1.

in the plain line of preferment? I know your answer will be, 'Patience and perseverance, Billy'; but can you tell me no method that will push me forward? I have opened a correspondence with Purling: he is certainly my friend. Shall I write to Sullivan? . . . In good truth this fagging and fagging and still fagging on with a prospect almost as distant as the steeple of St. Paul's is not the thing. . . ."

14th October. Our latest news of Tanjore is favourable.

"W. M. GOODLAD."

[*Holograph, 10 pp., flscp.*]

[No. 143.]

W[ILLIAM M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.,  
Spring Gardens, London.

1771, November 2nd, Fort St. George. I have only time to say that "the Nabob has concluded peace with Tanjore. It happened on the 27th ultimo. In a few days I will write you further. This goes by way of Bengal. . . ."

"W. M. GOODLAD."

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to.*]

[No. 144.]

MAJOR THO[MA]S FITZGERALD<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.,  
Bruton Street, London.

1771, November 5th, Angelville. I received your friendly letter with much pleasure, and wish I could have met you in London to communicate some messages from your nephew Tom. I feel sure that Tom was better fitted for the army than the civil service. You are more competent to judge, but I assure you he is deserving of promotion. Captain Oats<sup>(2)</sup> begged me to thank you for all your kindness to him. He is a first-class officer.

"THOS. FITZGERALD."

"P.S.—I must beg of you to tender my best wishes and compliments to Mrs. Palk, the good General and all your family. My being travelling some hundred miles in this kingdom to make a purchase, which I have at last effected if the title deeds are made clear to me, hindered me of replying sooner to your friendly favor. If ever I should be honored with a line from you, please to direct to me at Mr. Finlan's, Merchant, Breda Street, Dublin."

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to. Wax seal bearing arms and crest.*]

(1) Captain Thomas FitzGerald took part in 1764 in the second siege of Madura, and in the following year defeated the rebellious Raja of Ongole. As Major he served with distinction during the first Mysore war, was present at the battle of Trinomalai in 1767, and in 1768 extricated Colonel Wood from a critical position near Hosur. His report led to Wood's recall and trial. Major FitzGerald was then sent with a detached force into the Bāramahal in pursuit of Haidar, whom, however, he was unable to overtake. FitzGerald left India early in 1771.

(2) Captain Thomas Oats married Ann, daughter of Thomas Pelling, of Madras.

[No. 145.]

CAPTAIN J[AMES] RENNELL<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1771, November 12th, Bengall. I fear my several letters to you have miscarried, as I have not received any reply. I asked your interest towards getting me placed on the Invalid List so that I might enjoy a pension. "I might have saved you the trouble, for by the regulations established I find myself too rich a man to partake of the *provision*. I have an epithet at my tongue's end which I could with propriety have prefixed to it, but which I suppress out of respect to you. If the makers of those regulations think that a man can subsist genteely on the sum allotted, my only wish is that their fortunes may be stinted to it.

"With respect to my health, I find myself very well during the cold season, but the heats and damps of the other season are too powerful for the present relaxed state of my nerves. I could therefore wish myself at home; but previous to a step of that kind 'tis necessary that I should be provided with means to subsist comfortably. Had the Fund been settled agreeable to the scheme originally proposed, that is, £200, or £180 a year to a Captain, I might at the end of this year have left India and have had sufficient for a decent maintenance at home; but now I am left to shift for myself.

"I have entirely done my business in the field, and all that remains to be done to compleat the General Survey of Bengall, Bahar, our part of Orixá, and the Provinces of Allahabad and Awd will be compleated within these four months. The sea coast and rivers also have had a regular survey, and a surveyor in a sloop has been all round the Bay of Bengall and described the sea coasts and islands. It will now be my business to compile all these surveys, and for that purpose I am now setting down seriously for at least 13 months. The general and particular surveys are to be drawn in about 45 or 50 large folio maps, and will be a very compleat work when finished. Each province is to be drawn in a separate map, and most of these provinces are as big as the County of Norfolk, and some as big as Yorkshire. . . .

"I have inclosed this to Mr. Barrington,<sup>(2)</sup> a very particular friend of mine and a neighbour of yours. J. RENNELL."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to. Endorsed in Palk's hand*] "Capt. Rennell, 12 Nov., 1771. [Received] 26 July."

(1) James Rennell, of Chudleigh, Devon, entered the Navy in 1756. After seven years' service, three of which were spent on the East India station, Rennell was transferred to the Company in 1763, and received command of a ship at the age of 21. While engaged in transporting troops and stores for the siege of Madura he surveyed the coast down to Palk Strait. In 1764 he was appointed Surveyor General by Vansittart, and was commissioned in the Bengal Engineers, becoming Captain in 1767 and Major in 1775. His great work, the *General Survey of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa*, begun in 1764, was completed within twelve years, and Rennell retired on a pension in 1777. His *Bengal Atlas* was published two years later. Other geographical works followed. Rennell was elected F.R.S. in 1781: he died in 1830, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

(2) Fitzwilliam Barrington was a Director from 1759 to 1767.



[No. 146.]

W[ILLIAM] ALDERSEY<sup>(1)</sup> to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esq.

1771, November 25th, Calcutta. I received your letter of the 17th December, 1770, by the hand of "Mr. Cleveland," but he has been so unwell since his arrival that I have not yet seen him. "The adventurers to India of late have found themselves woefully disappointed with barren prospects." I will do what I can, however, for any who may be recommended by you.

"Poor Mr. Van! What a loss to the publick, to his own family and to society in general!" Please refer for news to my friends Russell<sup>(2)</sup> and Kelsall,<sup>(3)</sup> who go by this ship. Remember me to Mrs. Palk, General Lawrence, the Bouchier family and other Indian friends.

"W. ALDERSEY."

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 147.]

HENRY VANSITTART, jun., to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1771, November 29th.—"Honoured Sir,—Being by this day's observation in the latitude of 2d. 16m. South, our passage has been very favourable from the Cape, which we left the 11th of October. We now think we shall arrive at Bengal in the beginning of January, but in these seas conjectures are seldom found true. The Dutchman that is now in sight has desired us to give him our letters. He left Point de Gol 8 days ago, so that we shall now taste some Indian fruit. From Batavia, to which he is now bound, he will sail directly for Europe. I have time to write no more letters at present, but should be obliged if you would let Mama and the rest of my friends partake in this information. We are 122 Dutch leagues from Ceylon.

"I am your dutiful nephew,

"HENRY VANSITTART."

[*Holograph,  $\frac{3}{4}$  p., fscp.*]

[No. 148.]

MRS. LÆTITIA IRNSIDE to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1771, December 2nd, Chilton Lodge, near Hungerford, Berks.

I enclose a letter to you from my husband, which reached me last night. I am now staying with General and Mrs. Smith,<sup>(4)</sup> and forward this to your seat in Devonshire. When I hear that you are in London I will send you my husband's Persian books.

(1) William Aldersey. *Vide* No. 44, p. 69, note 1.(2) Claud Russell. *Vide* No. 12, p. 15, note 3.(3) Thomas Kelsall. *Vide* No. 27, p. 45, note 2.(4) General Richard Smith. *Vide* No. 83, p. 113, note 1.

Soon after I reached England I heard that a gentleman in India named Leslie<sup>(1)</sup> was trying to supersede Colonel Ironside. Being unsuccessful there, he has come home to renew his efforts. "The Directors say Mr. Leslie was recommended to them as a jewel worth their preserving. If those gentlemen will take the trouble to enquire Mr. Ironside[']s] character of the General officers who he has served under, I make no doubt but they will find him equally qualified with Mr. Leslie to hold any post in their service." I hope you will use your influence in the matter.

"LÆTITIA IRONSIDE."

[*Holograph*, 1½ p., 4to.]

[No. 149.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN GOODLAD].

1771, December 2nd, Haldon House.—"My dear Billy, . . . I am glad that you have found out a method of adjusting a most impudent and rascally demand. What the man gave he gave of his own free will. In my life [I never] asked him or any other person for a *douceur*, and I cannot yet bring myself to believe that this is a claim of his own setting up. I should think, my friend, some European has done me this injury. The sum I am very indifferent about, though I suppose it is the first instance of the kind. To you, however, I am much obliged, and shall be well satisfied with any proper mode you judge least dishonorable. . . .

"I know nothing of the present politics of the India House, where all seems confusion and a want of steadiness and reflection in the Company's affairs. God grant you a continuance of more wisdom than they seem to shew at home. My love to all friends, and Mrs. Palk's and the General's.

"I am ever and most affectionately yours,

"ROBT. PALK."

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 150.]

EDMUND VEALE LANE<sup>(2)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1771, December 17th, Bombay.—I have received your letter brought by Mr. Facey<sup>(3)</sup> on the *Dutton*, and was glad to be able to show that gentleman hospitality and supply him with money. He duly received his commission and rank, and lives at present at no expense, so "it will be his own fault if he does not do well. I hope he will, as he seems to be a very prudent young man." I am very grateful for all your past kindness to me.

"EDMUND VEALE LANE."

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

(1) Colonel Matthew Leslie. *Vide* No. 100, p. 130, note 4.

(2) Edmund Veale Lane was a Bombay civil servant of 1767. He died in 1780 at Bombay.

(3) Ensign George Facey, Bombay Infantry.

[No. 151.]

JOHN CRIGHTON to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, January 25th, Canton.—Having instructions from Mr. Nicholas Morse to remit to you the sum of Spanish dollars 6,159½ at 5s. 3d. per dollar, I send a bill of exchange for £1,616 18s. 3d.

“JNO. CRIGHTON.”

[Autograph, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 152.]

HENRY VANSITTART, jun., to ROBERT PALK, Esqr. at Edmund Boehm's, Esqr., Sice Lane, London.

1772, January 29th, Bengal.—“Dear Sir, I shall leave Kedgree in about ½ an hour, and hope to arrive at Calcutta in 3 days. The *Asia* and *Speke* sail too soon for me to write from town. My uncle and Mr. Palk are well at the Durbar. I shall be able to add nothing more till the dispatch of the *Rochford*. . .

“Your dutiful nephew,

HENRY VANSITTART.”

[Holograph, ½ p., 4to.]

[No. 153.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN] GOODLAD.

1772, February 2nd, Park Place.—“Dear Goodlad, I thank you for your letter of the 21st July,<sup>(1)</sup> which, considering the busy life you lead, is much longer than I had a right to expect. It reached me at my house in Devonshire early in a morning, and I found afterwards that it was dropped by Colonel Campbell,<sup>(2)</sup> who passed within a mile of me, but was in too great a hurry to call upon me.

“I rejoice that the Nabob's creditors are made easy, and hope they are now in a fair way of being paid off. As to the measures of the Directors, they are passed finding out, and every day they are more and more convincing the world that the direction of the Company's affairs by a sett of men who have views of their own cannot be managed to advantage. They throw the blame on their servants abroad, and accordingly the King in his speech has strongly recommended regulations to be made; and the situation of affairs at Bengal is soon to be laid before them.

“No complaints are made of the management of affairs on the Coast, but the Directors have sent Lord Clive and most of the Bengal Counsellors a long list of informations against them, which have been collected abroad by a Mr. Petré and supported by the Johnstones,<sup>(3)</sup> proving or attempting to prove many

(1) *Vide* No. 140, p. 161.

(2) Probably Colonel Charles Campbell.

(3) John Johnstone, a member of the Bengal Council at Clive's arrival in 1765, was suspended for accepting gifts. He resigned, and became a bitter opponent of the Governor in England. His brother George Johnstone, M.P., likewise attacked Clive both in the Court of Proprietors and in Parliament.



frauds in the salt duties and revenues to the amount of 5 or 600,000*l*. Having never seen these charges, I cannot be more particular, but Lord Clive and the gentlemen themselves make very light of them, and say the Directors will be found much more to blame than their servants. It happens, however, at an unlucky time, mankind in general being willing to suspect that so many great fortunes cannot be fairly acquired. Government, I believe, are far from wishing to take the management out of the Company's hands, but they wish to see their affairs in a better train.

"It is now very certain that Choiseul<sup>(1)</sup> had made preparations for beginning a war in India, to which is owing the great force collected at the Islands, which Lord North gives us to understand is to be recalled; but till that happens we are to have a superiority at least in men-of-war, and it is for this reason that two ships of force are soon to sail to join Sir Robert Harland, which, however, are to return when the marine force at the Islands returns.

"The approval of the sentence of Wood's court martial was certainly a severe stroke to Government, and till your letter told me so I never conceived any sett of men could have been so wanton in their resentments. I seldom see any of them, and when I do they are too knowing themselves to want any advice, and too secret to be communicative. Nothing, I understand, is yet determined about a successor to Mr. Du Pré, and it is a misfortune to the service that nobody near him in Council is thought proper for the station. Macguire,<sup>(2)</sup> it seems, applied, and was very properly refused. Mr. Sullivan wanted to be a Supervisor, and on that account, I hear, they resolve at present to send none for want of being able to find fit men. It is not alledged that the Coast wants supervision.

"I am afraid the calling Tanjour to account, which is become so absolutely necessary, will be attended with risk and difficulty. I hope Sir Robert Harland will be a better adviser.

"Having long been acquainted with the good heart of Captain Baker,<sup>(3)</sup> let me bespeak your kindness to him, and likewise to the two Kennaways<sup>(4)</sup> during their short stay with

(1) The Duc de Choiseul, French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(2) William McGwire of the Bengal civil service, who was dismissed by the Directors in 1761, when he was Chief at Patna.

(3) George Baker, of Tor Mohun (now called Torre, near Torquay) a seafaring man, made his first voyage to India in 1743. In 1747 he was with Boscawen at Pondicherry, and ten years later, as master of the *Cuddalore*, did good service during the siege of Fort St. George. In 1762, when commanding the *London*, he was appointed first Master Attendant of the port of Madras. On resigning this post he went to England, and in 1771, when residing at Kenton near Haldon, made a contract with the Directors to deliver water to the Madras Fort and shipping from a source north of Black Town, himself receiving fees for 21 years. He returned to India in 1772 and duly executed the work. Baker died at Madras on the 4th July, 1799. A monument to his memory was erected in Torre Church by his nephew William Baker.

(4) John and Richard Kennaway, who were arriving to join the Bengal army and civil service respectively, were sons of William Kennaway, of Exeter, a friend of Robert Palk.

you. I am satisfied that you have balanced the account, though I was much more in debt than I expected. May every blessing attend you!

"I am, my dear friend, most affectionately yours,

"ROBT. PALK."

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 154.]

ANT[HON]Y GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, February 20th, Fort William.—Expresses anxiety at not receiving any reply, excepting a brief note of 1768, to his many letters. Feels much gratitude for past favours.

[*Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to.*]

[No. 155.]

JOS[IAS] DU PRÉ to [ROBERT] PALK, Esqr.

1772, February 25th, Fort St. George.—"Dear Sir, Receive my acknowledgements for your favours of the 6th August and 2nd December, 1770. I have had as good a constitution as most men: it has been put to the tryal, and if it bears me through this year 'tis as much as it can. There is no end to embarrassment. Our good friend Wallau Jau is daily carving out fresh matter. We have had a short war with Tanjore, terminated by a peace, I know not why. After the Nabob had irritated the Rajah into unjustifiable acts 'twas necessary to call him to an account, and if we had the power of doing justice, it might have been done without firing a gun. As we had not, and consequently the Rajah could not rely on us, 'twas necessary to put it out of his power to be dangerous, and, a war once begun, it seemed best to get as much power by it as we could: arrangements might afterwards have been made as should seem best. We were obliged—for a thousand reasons which a volume would not suffice to explain—to give the lead to the Nabob. Oh, what a falling off from the days of yore! The Nabob blames the General, and the General the Nabob. A peace was made just when the breach was practicable. I will not take upon me to say whether 'tis better so, or worse than if the place had been taken, for that must depend on the ideas and measures at home. I know this, that either the Rajah must be so supported in his government as that he may have a confidence in the Company, or he must be reduced. To leave him in continual fear of the Nabob will ensure his enmity whenever it may be dangerous to us and when we shall most need his friendship.

"We have been under great apprehensions of a Maratta invasion—at least the Nabob made us believe we were in great danger, from which I believe that he will be able to relieve us, finding that all his arts and efforts could not drag us into an

offensive alliance with them, seconded by the threats of the mighty Plenipos. I begin now to hope that we may enjoy peace at least for this year.

"I have been happy in the assistance and support of Mr. Hastings. He has left us to take upon him the charge of affairs in Bengal. I am afraid he will find difficulties enough if he attempts, as he intends, a reform. He has had a good seasoning here, and is enured to difficulty and contest. I heartily wish him success, for he is a good and a valuable man.

"Mrs. Dupré begs to offer her good wishes to you and Mrs. Palk. I don't know whether my pen or my eyes are failing, but I can hardly see what I write. 'Tis late at night, but never too late to assure you that I am, with every good wish to you and yours, dear Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

"JOS. DU PRÉ."

[P.S.]—"I have put the Nabob in mind of the General's annuity. He promised to send it. 'Tis not yet come. I shall give him another hint by and by."

[P.P.S.]—"27th. The money is come."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 156.]

REYNO[LD] ADAMS to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, February 27th [Fort St. George].--I send you a bill of exchange for £1,000 from Captain Madge, and one of £800 on my own account. Please deal with the latter as you think best. By the *Britannia* I requested your acceptance of a pipe of old madeira, to be delivered to you by my relative Mr. Daniell. Mr. Taswell has arrived, but I hope there is no risk of his superseding me.

"REYNO. ADAMS."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 157.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, February 28th, Fort St. George.—"Honourable Sir, Since I had the honour to write to you under date of the 18th July last . . . the Company's order and appointment of Mr. Hastings [as] Governor of Bengal arrived here, and that gentleman embarked on a brigantine and sailed to that place the 2nd of this month."

The ship *Carnatic* from Manila made an unsatisfactory voyage, selling only part of her cargo, and that at the rate of a dollar per pagoda, "which grieves the merchants' hearts very much." Trade all over India is bad.

"The Governor and Council appointed Mr. Monkton<sup>(1)</sup> to go

(1) The Hon. Edward Monkton. *Vide* No. 118, p. 116, note 2.



to Quedda with a few soldiers and seapoys and all the necessary servants to settle a trade there for the Company, and also Mr. Desveaux<sup>(1)</sup> in the same manner to Acheen. Mr. Ardley<sup>(2)</sup> departed this life the 9th of this month, and Mr. Charles Smith<sup>(3)</sup> is admitted one of the members in Council . . . .

"Our forces was very near of taking Tanjore, but in the mean time the King made up matters with the Nabob, paying all the expences of the expedition, and the tribute money due from him, and also the plunder and present that he had received from the Maravah of Ramanadapurum. Since my last the French received no ships, money nor any thing else from Europe, and they are as poor as rats at present, and if it was not owing to the capacity of Mr. Law, the Settlement of Pondichery would have fallen long before this. The Morattas tryed all they could to see if our Governour will give them assistance to beat Hyder, but our Governour by his great wisdom made the Nabob settle with the Morattas without sending them any force against Hyder.

"A great accident happened at Trichinopoly on the 14th instant. The expence magazine, a large stone choultry, with about 130 barrels of powder and a very large quantity of musket and fixed ammunition, was blown up. Stones of several ton weight were thrown to a considerable distance. By that accident about 200 Europeans and about two thousand black people perished, and several of the houses, stores, etc., damaged, which is a very great loss, and such accident was never heard of in these parts.

"His Majesty's squadron was at Trincanamally all the winter, and they are now at Madras, which is a great awe to all the country Powers abroad. . . ."

"CHOCAPAH."

[*Autograph, 2 pp., fscp.*]

[No. 158.]

THO[MAS] PALK to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1772, February 28th, Fort St. George.—I received no letter from you during the whole of last year, and feel anxious as to the cause of your silence. By the *Colebrooke*, whose packet has just reached us, I heard from my father only. Mr. Hastings left in January to succeed Mr. Cartier in Bengal. He promised me, at the request of Mr. Morse, a transfer to Masulipatam under Mr. Brooke, who is to succeed Mr. Wynch as Chief. Of your many friends here none except Mr. Morse has taken the least notice of me. Mr. Morse, however, has been more like a parent than a friend. He has been seriously ill with gout,

(1) Charles Desvoeux, a civil servant of 1763, was employed under Call in 1764 as an Engineer on the Madras fortifications. In 1772 he was a Junior Merchant.

(2) *Vide* No. 52, p. 78, note 2.

(3) *Vide* No. 118, p. 146, note 1.

but is now better. Henry Vansittart, who went on to Bengal in the *Britannia*, is coming here on a visit to Mr. Morse. Mr. Call was expected to succeed Mr. Du Pré as Governor, but now it is said Mr. Cartier will do so.

“By letters from my brother I am sorry to find that the Leaden Hall Street Gentlemen have not forgot the Cozimbazar affair. It is a most cruel thing to refresh his memory with what has already given him so much trouble. He is, he says, called down from Patna, which I should imagine might have been prevented, as Mr. Sullivan is in the Direction, and he consequently must have some friends. He has requested of the Gentlemen at Bengal to allow him 6 months’ longer stay . . . to settle his affairs. He seems to be very happy in his present matrimonial situation. His spouse brought him a son and heir 30th September last.

“The country is now very quiet again. The Morattoes have been threatening an invasion in the Carnatic, but are obliged to return to their own country to restore peace to their own dominions; so that Hyder laughs at them, and is in possession of his country again. The Tanjore expedition I am almost ashamed to mention; but let it suffice that after having lost a great many men, and a practicable breach made, our army retreated back to Trichinapoly, notwithstanding I saw under Mr. Dupré’s own hand that he was resolved to reduce that Rajah; though it is not surprising, nor unlike every thing else that is done.

“The following is an extract from a letter I received from Trichinapoly, dated 16th January, 1772, [from] a gentleman in the family of General Smith:—‘I should have set down and given you some account of the calamity that happened here the 14th, but till now I have been employed attending the people at work, at first in endeavouring to save those who had any remains of life, and afterwards getting the dead bodies removed. On the 14th, about 4 in the afternoon, we were surprized with an explosion in the fort, which was so violent that, though we were upwards of a mile distant, the doors and windows of the house, though bolted, were forced open with the shock. On going into the Fort we found the expence magazine, a large stone choultry, with the artillery,<sup>(1)</sup> part of the infantry barracks and all the buildings adjoining, particularly upwards of 60 feet of a brick wall 4 feet thick and 40 in height, were blown up and laid level with the ground. You know the wall I mean: it is where the gentlemen sometimes play at fives (the Nabob’s garden wall), and under which in the day there is a constant thorough-fare of people. About 40 Europeans were killed in the spot and a great number of natives, and had it happened at any other time of the day, God knows what would have been the consequences. The powder that took fire consisted of about 130 barrels, with a very large quantity of musket and

(1) Note by T.P. “Not one gun remains serviceable scarce.”

fixed ammunition. Stones of several tons weight were thrown at a great distance, many of them into the houses, and after making their way through all, buried themselves in the earth. Ensign McNeal was killed by one on the opposite side of the Rock, though it is of an enormous height. The cavalry that were picketed on the glacis were obliged to fly: part of a six pound fell on the terrace of Warriore Hospital<sup>(1)</sup>; in short the poor inhabitants were under, for some time, a most tremendous shower of stones, shells and shot, and the shock so great that they were scarce able to stand. Many thousands fled to the fields, and a more melancholy scene [than] that they left behind cannot possibly be imagined. The unhappy sufferers buried in the ruins, the heads of some appearing above the rubbish, the arms and legs of others, and many torn to pieces. The unhappy mothers, who on the first alarm flew to save their children, lying dead with their infants clasped in their arms. Spare me from going farther with this scene; it is too shocking to bear a recital. The General's house in the Fort is a perfect wreck. Mr. Hay's<sup>(2)</sup> and many others suffered much, and himself covered with rubbish. Major Braithwaite,<sup>(3)</sup> passing the main guard, was thrown out of his palanquin: his peon, to save him, threw himself on his master, who had just then received a bruise on the side of his head by a six pound shot in its fall. His house is beat in, one of his servants killed and both his horses, which must also have been his own fate had it happened three minutes later and he had time to get home. To mention the particulars of this affecting scene would be endless.

“It is not known how the accident happened. There were 13 artillery men and some lascars drying ammunition, who were all killed. It is, however, supposed that one shott falling on another communicated fire to the powder in the linnen bags, and by that means occasioned all that happened.”

“The above is a very perfect account [of the] melancholy event.”

“THO. PALK.”

P.S.—Please do me the favour of having two or three rings made for me in memory of my poor cousin Tom Palk. A newspaper or magazine of recent date will be acceptable.

[*Holograph*, 13½ pp., 4to.]

(1) Note by T.P. “One mile distant or upwards.”

(2) James Hay. *Vide* No. 230, p. 235, note 2.

(3) Major John Brathwaite reduced the Poligars of Madura and Tinnevely in 1772 and, as Lieut.-Colonel, took Mahé from the French in 1779. When commanding in Tanjore in 1782 he was badly defeated by Tipu, taken prisoner and carried to Seringapatam, whence he was released at the peace of 1784. General Brathwaite was Commander-in-Chief, Madras, for four years from 1792, and captured Pondicherry in 1793.



[No. 159.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1772, February 28th, Fort St. George. Received 20th September.—“My dearest Friend . . . To the best of my recollection you have had a clear account of matters to the sailing of the *Stag* in October last.<sup>(1)</sup> We were then in the height of expectation in respect to Tanjour . . . Peace ensued without our accomplishing the reduction of the capital. Various were the conjectures on this occasion, and the motives for such a step are not to this hour ascertained. Six hours more would have rendered the breach practicable, and in all human probability a storm would have ensured us the capture. But curbed by the Nabob; acting as auxiliaries without a will of our own, and having our operations wholly subservient to Indostan politics, the object of the campaign was in great measure frustrated. Vellum, it is true, was taken and remains in our hands; a sum of money was paid, and some countries were relinquished by the Rajah; but our prospects promised more substantial benefits, and we lost the opportunity of compleatly humbling a dangerous rival situated in the very heart of the countries from whence we draw our support. The Nabob, unwilling to discover the real cause of the accommodation, would willingly attribute it to the General, but all unprejudiced minds seem to hold him blameless. For my own part I am willing to believe him so; and if I could venture to start an opinion of my own, I would declare the loss of Tanjour to be solely owing to the Nabob’s apprehensions of the Marattas. Did I say solely? I meant it not. A jealousy of the Company, never to be eradicated, had its share in his determination. In short, Tanjour was within his grasp, but his apprehensions would not suffer him to seize it; and thus ended our expedition. It has nevertheless certainly been attended with good-effects, for the Rajah is evidently humbled, and the possession of Vellum must be a great check upon him; but there is this to be said, that the Rajah will never regard an accommodation (to which we are not Guarantees) as binding on the Nabob. He will look for fresh troubles when the Nabob has it in his power, and he will consequently take the first opportunity of throwing off the yoke by affecting [*sic*] a junction which it was one object of our expedition to prevent. But we must rest satisfied. The Company are not what they were, and never will recover themselves whilst Ministry interposes; and this accommodation may justly be regarded as one of the many bad effects of the ministerial plan. The Nabob would never have thought of laying aside the guarantee had he not depended on support from the Crown; and, had the guarantee been regarded as subsisting, we had never quitted Tanjour till the Rajah, admitting an English garrison, had put it out of

(1) *Vide* No. 142, p. 164.

his power to become troublesome in future. And thus ends my history . . .

“I have been so particular before in describing to you the cause we had to apprehend a Maratta invasion—the warmth of the Nabob’s solicitations to join them in reducing Hyder; our desire rather to assist Hyder if a part must be taken; and the repeated entreaties of both that we would take part in their disputes—that a repetition here is unnecessary. Matters have lately become much more serious, but, greatly to the honor of Du Pré, we have hitherto surmounted all difficulties. A determined firmness has overcome every obstacle, and we continue in peace notwithstanding every threat and every solicitation.

“The very pressing applications from both parties, and the apparent consequences of our acquiescing or refusing, rendered every art of procrastination necessary. The expectation of the Commissioners long afforded an excellent plea, and their non-arrival gave still further time. Orders from home in consequence of their loss were then represented as necessary for our determination. In short, every twig was grasped at to prevent us from sinking, but at length it became necessary to resolve. The Marattas were on our borders, and had even committed hostilities, though they denied the intention of so doing. The Nabob used every argument to bring us over to their party . . . The Minister backed his representations . . . but the Council still continued firm, and when matters came [to] a crisis, declared openly that they would defend the Nabob’s possessions to the utmost, but would join neither party. The Nabob and Minister both found they had struggled in vain; and as the Marattas had been fed with hopes of our assistance, it became necessary to recompense them for their disappointment. They are gone off, and we are promised peace for a time. The causes which have produced this may easily be guessed at, though they cannot with any certainty be declared.

“You will see from the foregoing that our new Minister has not been idle. He long remained silent, and we had hopes that he would have given us little interruption; but he at length assumed his character, and promised to be more active than his predecessor. Blustering was not wanting, but it is no match for calmness. After attempting to speak daggers, he sheathed his weapon, and (to the best of my judgement) we remain triumphant. It is suspected that during the height of our disputes he was checked from home. From the most haughty stile he descended at once to (what I call) the lowest submission, and has since been perfectly calm . . .

“I have frequently told you how much the Nabob’s conduct was altered since the arrival of the Plenipotentiary . . . You must have heard of the Agreement between the Company and the agents for the creditors in England. He refuses absolutely to acquiesce, hints that he will pay each separately, but will

make no declaration that he will really discharge his debt to the Company . . . Many of the creditors have declared their resolution to abide by the Agreement, and have appointed a committee to transact their affairs, at the head of which I am. The Council promise us every assistance in their power . . .

“Hastings left us the 2nd instant, much regretted, for he is a very valuable man both in his public and private character. Unless my letters from Bengal tell me wrong, he will have much on his hands, for matters there are represented to be in a state which will require the exertion of all his abilities to reform them. Ardley died the 9th instant. Pyne<sup>(1)</sup> and Charles Smith are in Council. When shall I be there? Alas! the reflection gives me pain . . .”

[Holograph, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

“W. M. GOODLAD.”

[No. 160.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

N.Y. [1772], February 29th, 2 a.m. [Fort St. George.]—“I have wrote you so particular a letter by the packet per *Lord North* that I request of you to use your utmost endeavours to procure it. Pray send word to my mother that I am in health and spirits. May every blessing attend you! Adieu.

“W. M. GOODLAD.”

[Holograph, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 161.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, March 20th, Fort St. George. Received 20th Sept.—Since I wrote by the *Lord North* last month,<sup>(2)</sup> nothing special has occurred. The Nawab totally disregards the Agreement made between his creditors and the Company, and is resolved to suit his own convenience in regard to payments.

“Whatever the Minister may be about in private, he continues silent, and all correspondence is dropped; but there is no cordiality subsisting between us, and indeed if I had time to describe to you in how many instances he descends beneath the dignity of his character, you would not be surprised at it. We are free from apprehensions as to the Marattas for the present . . . Hastings is arrived in Bengal, but we have yet no accounts of his having taken possession of the Government, or of the situation in which he has found affairs there . . .

“I enclose you a bill on my mother for £200, interest to August, 1772, on the money I am so much obliged to you for. Accept it with my best thanks, my dearest friend, and be assured there does not exist a more grateful heart than in the

(1) George Pyne, a civil servant of 1753.

(2) *Vide* No. 159, p. 177.



the breast of your ever obliged and affectionate friend and servant,

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

“W. M. GOODLAD.”

[*Enclosure*].—First of Exchange for £200 at 90 days to Mrs. Goodlad, King’s Road, Gray’s Inn, London, in favour of Robert Palk, Esqr.

[1 p., 4to.]

[No. 162.]

HENRY VANSITTART, jun., to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., at Edmund Boehm’s, Esqr., Sice Lane, London.

1772, April 2nd, Fort St. George.—“Dear Sir, I landed in good health at Calcutta the 31st of January, and in consequence of several pressing letters I received from Mr. Morse, left it in order to proceed to Madras in the *Lord Holland* in the latter end of February. I had before my departure been introduced to Mr. Hastings, who has invited me to live with him when I return. After a passage of 25 days we arrived in Madras road, and I had a happy meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Morse the next day. The time of my stay here is not yet settled, but, however, I shall find employment in the study of the Persian language and in the instructions of my grand father. The Nabob, having heard from Mr. Du Pré of the letter you have sent by me, has already given me an invitation to come and see him, and when Mr. Morse thinks proper he will carry me there. I have received many civilities here, but I cannot say that I am so fond of this place as Bengal. Mr. Alexander<sup>(1)</sup> and Mr. Floyer,<sup>(2)</sup> who are going in the *Lord Holland* to Europe, have treated me in the most obliging manner during my stay in that ship, and to them I chiefly am indebted for my passage.

“Remember me to Mr. Tripe,<sup>(3)</sup> and give my duty to Mrs. Palk, and love to Nancy and Lawrence. Your dutiful nephew,

“HENRY VANSITTART.”

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 163.]

J[OHN] M[AXWELL] STONE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, April 4th, Fort St. George.—I have lately received your letter of the 2nd April, 1771, and now reply by the *Lord Holland*. Alexander and Floyer go in her, the former “to enjoy his fortune at ease,” the latter to procure reinstatement on the Bengal establishment.

“Our situation for these two or three years past has indeed been very distressing and perplexing, and my wonder can only be equalled by the satisfaction I feel to find that we have got

(1) James Alexander. *Vide* No. 65, p. 92, note 6.

(2) Charles Floyer. *Vide* No. 84, p. 113, note 6.

(3) Nicholas Tripe, of Ashburton, who married Grace Palk, niece of Governor Palk.

thus far in safety. Great merit is certainly due to Mr. Du Pré, who, notwithstanding all the embarrassments and difficulties with which he was surrounded, notwithstanding the disagreeable and vexatious altercations he has been obliged to maintain with the Nabob, His Majesty's Ministers and General Coote, could persevere with such steadiness and resolution in the line he first laid down."

At the end of last December we learned with gratification that the conduct of the Governor and Council in regard to the Nawab, the Marattas, Hyder Ali and the King's Minister was approved at home, though nothing was said about Coote.

"Sir John Lindsay did not cease plaguing us till the end of July last, when it may be supposed he had got as much as he could expect, and the news arrived of Sir Robert Harland's being appointed to succeed him with plenipotentiary powers. The Squadron arrived here the beginning of September, and Sir Robert Harland immediately upon his landing laid before the Board his plenipotentiary powers and instructions, the sum and substance of which were;—to see that the Treaty of Paris of 1763 had not been infringed, and to receive from the Nabob any complaints he might have to make, and transmit them to the Ministry. These powers, which we understand were the same with Sir John Lindsay's, could not, you will say, authorize the steps taken by the Minister. However, by a very extraordinary construction put on the 11th article of the Treaty of Paris, they were used to that end. The Nabob, by the interpretation given to that article, is deemed an ally of the Crown of Great Britain, and as such has a right to the support and protection of the Crown. In virtue of which the Minister took upon him to urge the Government to such measures as the Nabob should dictate. You, I dare say, will be surprized at this forced construction put upon that article, and the arguments used in consequence, as you are well acquainted with the cause of that article being inserted, which was evidently with no other intent than to put it out of the power of the French to set up Chunda Saib's son<sup>(1)</sup> or any other pretender to the Phousdary<sup>(2)</sup> of the Carnatic in opposition to the Nabob. If the interpretation now given to the article be admitted, the Nabob is equally an ally of the Crown of France as of Great Britain, as they are both equally bound by the Treaty to acknowledge him for Nabob; and it is incumbent on England and France to support him against all the world, even against the Mogul and the Soubah, to whom, by the custom of the Empire and his own acknowledgment, he is subject. You will, I am certain, see the impropriety, I may say the absurdity, of this doctrine. But what will you say when I tell you that the Directors have adopted the like notions, which has been the cause of much embarrassment to us in our transactions with the Nabob;

(1) Razā Khān, commonly called Rājā Sāhib.

(2) Phousdary, from Pers. *faujdārī*, governorship.

which must in the end prove very detrimental to the Company's affairs ; and I may venture to pronounce, without pretending to the gift of prophecying, that it is impossible matters can long remain in the present situation. The Company must adopt some uniform plan and system in their connexions with the Nabob, or give him up entirely. The defence and protection of the Carnatic rests on them, while the resources are in the Nabob's hands, who refuses to furnish the means necessary for that purpose, and counteracts and opposes every measure of this Government. There was a time when the arguments which worked upon his hopes or fears had some weight, but he now hears everything with the utmost seeming indifference. He no longer looks up to the Company as his friends and supporters, but places his whole confidence in the aid of the Crown. His drift seems to be to play off one against the other, by which means he hopes to free himself from any dependance on the Company ; and when he has gained sufficient strength he flatters himself with the idea of entire independancy. These, my dear Sir, are my thoughts of the consequences of the present system, or rather want of system with the Nabob, which I communicate in confidence to you ; and I can assure you they frequently give me much uneasiness, as I have little prospect of being able to retire from a scene which promises nothing but perplexity and embarrassment ; and more especially when I see the Company, whose interest I shall ever make it my study to promote, threatened with such imminent danger.

“ From the open and candid manner with which Sir Robert Harland exposed to us his powers, we hoped we should not have been again subjected to the like vexatious correspondence we had been engaged in for a twelvemonth before. But we were only led to hope what we wished. A Minister from the Crown without employment must be without consequence. He must render himself usefull to the Nabob in one shape or other, or the end of his mission is not answered. Sir Robert Harland, rather than remain idle, renewed the same subjects which had been so fully discussed with his predecessor ; but he ventured further. He threatened, when he found we would not adopt the Nabob's system of joining the Morattas, to engage the Crown in an alliance with them, and desired to know whether the Company would in that case assist them with their troops. He was told plainly, but in respectful terms, that *they would not*. About this time the advices by the *Lord Holland* arrived, and which it is believed brought orders to Sir Robert Harland from the Ministry respecting the powers he was vested with, as he wrote a letter a few days after very different in style and sentiment from those we had before received from him, and which might be almost construed a disavowal of his former conduct. He, however, still preserves a very close intimacy with the Nabob, who is no doubt led to expect powerfull support from him. This is our situation with regard to the Nabob, and



which must continue untill the extraordinary powers sent out are withdrawn, and the Nabob can be again brought to look for no other support from England but through the means of the Company. But I much fear such a change will not soon take place. It will be no easy matter to prevail on the Ministry to relinquish the footing they have gained in India, and the Nabob will give them all the encouragement in his power to persevere in the plan they have adopted untill his views are completed.

“The arrival of the *Lord Holland* gave the Governor and Council an opportunity of acting as they had long wished to do with regard to the Morattas and Hyder Ally. The latter had not ceased to solicit our assistance, and the Morattas had constantly demanded it with threats, in which they were supported by the Nabob and his Majesty’s Minister. The Board were fully determined not to assist the Morattas, from the dangerous consequences to be apprehended from an increase of their power; and the Nabob could never be prevailed on to take any measures in favor of Hyder Ally. Thus circumstanced, the Governor and Council thought it expedient to return no decisive answer to either, and to inform both that we should be guided by the orders we might receive from England. Indeed we had so long made use of evasions that it was impossible they could have availed us any longer; and we must have been obliged to have declared openly in favor of the one or the other, or our resolution to remain neuter. The arrival of the orders by the *Lord Holland* put us out of suspence, and we no longer hesitated to declare plainly both to the Morattas and Hyder Ally that we were not empowered to afford assistance to either. When the Nabob found that neither his solicitations, the threats of the Minister, nor the fear of a Moratta invasion could induce the Governor and Council to adopt his favourite plan of joining the Morattas, he then, and not till then, set earnestly to work to prevent their ravaging the Province. They had already advanced to the borders, and some parties had actually entered the country and plundered some villages. The negotiation was begun and concluded in a few days, and the Morattas retired into the Balaghaut<sup>(1)</sup> on the other side of the hills, and were by the last accounts near Syringapatam. We know not on what terms they consented to withdraw, as the Nabob industriously conceals from us every transaction; but we have heard that he only paid them the four lacks of rupees which remained due of the agreement made in 1760. The ease with which the Nabob settled this business, and that too at a season of the year the most favourable for the Morattas to lay waste the country, confirmed the suspicions we had long entertained that the Morattas had been encouraged, if not invited, by the Nabob himself to threaten this Province in order to frighten or

(1) Bālaghāt, the country above the ghauts, the Mysore plateau.

compell us into an alliance with them. And indeed a circumstance came to light in the course of the correspondence which afforded further cause for our suspicions. It appeared that the Nabob had obtained from the Morattas a promise of the cession of the Barhamall<sup>(1)</sup> country and of the fort of Syringapatam in case he could prevail on us to assist in reducing Hyder Ally; and although he could not be ignorant how little dependance was to be placed on such a promise from the Morattas, it had certainly great weight with him in his political system. Notwithstanding the Morattas had advanced to the very borders of the Province, and we received daily accounts of villages plundered by them, nothing we could urge could prevail on the Nabob to consent that the army, which was returned from before Tanjour to Trichinopoly, should move to some central position to protect the country. We could take no measures without his concurrence, because we had neither the means of paying or subsisting the troops in the field, and because, as the country is the Nabob's, we can attempt nothing for its security without his consent, as we should make ourselves responsible for all consequences, which, considering the present temper of the times, might be hazarding too much.

"I have thus, my dear Sir, given you a faint, but I will venture to say a true, picture of our situation. I need not express my wish that this letter be only communicated to my friend Mr. Bourchier, as it would be improper in me to offer my opinion unasked to others when my situation does not require it."

I offer you my condolences on the loss of Mr. Vansittart in the *Aurora*. I had hopes that Harry Griffiths<sup>(2)</sup> would have been admitted to the service this year. He is a fine sensible boy, and works in my office without pay. I have urged Mr. Du Pré to exert his influence, but he does not care to ask for favours. Mr. Canning<sup>(3)</sup> is desirous of getting Harry Griffiths' brother William to India as a cadet. Your kindness to the Griffiths' father makes me hope for your aid.

"Mrs. Stone having for several years labored under a very bad state of health, I have at last been under the necessity of consenting to her proceeding to England. She went the last season by the way of China, and I have had the satisfaction to learn from her that the voyage has given so favourable [a] turn to her constitution that she is perfectly recovered, and would have returned to me without going to England but on account of my dear little girl, whom it was necessary to send home. I need not say how very painful this separation must be to me, but I have endeavoured to support myself under it with all the patience and resolution I am master of, and with

(1) The Bāramahāl was the territory situated S.E. of the present province of Mysore between the first and second ranges of the Eastern Ghauts. It extended roughly from the Pālār to the Cauvery, and took its name from the circumstance of its division into twelve districts.

(2) *Vide* No. 88, p. 117, note 1.

(3) The Rev. Richard Canning. *Cf.* No. 50, p. 76.

the reflexion of my having acted for her's and the child's good . . ."

[*Holograph*, 14 pp., 4to.]

"J. M. STONE."

[No. 164.]

REYNO[LD] ADAMS to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, April 4th, Fort St. George.—I was glad to receive your letter of the 14th April, 1771, brought by Mr. Vansittart. "It gives me much pleasure to find that the wine (a poor token of my gratitude) proved agreeable, which will induce me to repeat it when a favorable opportunity offers, unless any thing else might appear more acceptable." I have remitted to you Pags. 2,000, which I beg you to lend on mortgage or otherwise invest for me.

"REYNO. ADAMS."

[*Holograph*, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 165.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, April 4th, Madras.—I was glad to receive your letter of the 2nd April, 1771,<sup>(1)</sup> brought by Henry Vansittart. The Plénipotentary remains quiet, having probably received instructions to that effect, but the Company cannot recover its influence until the powers of the Crown are withdrawn. We have no decision yet regarding the dispute with Coote. The question of my supersession by Mr. Stewart<sup>(2)</sup> has been settled in my favour, and I am grateful to you for your help in the matter. I shall do what I can to make Harry Vansittart's stay here agreeable, but I have been so overwhelmed with work that I have not yet been able to see him. I am writing to Mr. Sulivan, to whom I owe my first appointment to the Company's service. I would address Mr. Bouchier if I could find the time.

"W. M. GOODLAD."

[*Holograph*, 6 pp., 4to.]

[No. 166.]

ROBERT PALK to [WILLIAM MARTIN GOODLAD].

1772, April 7th, Park Place.—"My dear Billy . . . The Directors were well pleased with the last accounts from Madras. The success against Tanjour will not raise the Stock, but if we fail it will have a confounded tumble. Sir Robert Harland possibly may have the same powers with Lindsay, but his instructions must be very different. Whatever they are, the House of Commons will desire to see them, and next Tuesday is appointed for an enquiry into the state of India. On that motion Lord Clive spoke for two hours in vindication of his own

(1) *Vide* No. 134, p. 157.

(2) *Cf.* No. 119, p. 149.



conduct. He was followed by Rumbold, Carnac and Coote. The last said that three times the number of troops now employed in India might be paid with the same money, but that the contractors and the *canaille* spent all the money. All which every officer who ever commanded in India is ready flatly to contradict."

I have done all in my power to bring your merit to notice in Leadenhall Street. Sir George Colebrooke,<sup>(1)</sup> to whom I showed your last letter, will be pleased to hear from you. I shall also speak to Purling<sup>(2)</sup>; "but they are all such ignoramus's that they understand little or nothing of the affairs abroad. They are only anxious for appearances and carrying on their own jobbs. Sullivan still is a candidate for the succession at Madras, but there seem to me many difficulties in his way."

"ROBT. PALK."

[*Holograph*, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 167.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, April 13th, Madras.—I send this by way of Anjengo in hopes of catching the Bombay ships. The *Lapwing* arrived here yesterday, but the advices by her give us little information. "We shall never be restored to our former footing so long as a Minister from the Crown is continued in these parts. The little confidence which remained between His Excellency and the Board must be daily lessened as we find his character open more and more. It seems that the *Lapwing* was freighted with complaints to the Crown, and I suppose the subsequent dispatches have been of the same nature. Is it possible to live on terms with the man who is known to endeavour all in his power to thus stab in the dark? He makes no ceremony of telling the King that the Company's servants encrease his expences at *pleasure*. By Jove! I—I am very angry, for I detest every thing so ungenerous."

The Court of Directors are said to be displeased at the tone of recent letters from here. If any changes take place in consequence, Stone will probably become a member of the Board. In that case I shall try for the Military Secretaryship, and slave until I secure preferment. Purling seems to be my friend, and I hope to win over Sullivan. We continue at peace, but an expedition against the Marawars is talked of. On the whole the prospects on the Coast are promising.

"W. M. GOODLAD."

[*Holograph*, 4pp., 4to.]

(1) Sir George Colebrooke, Bt., was Chairman of the Court of Directors in 1769, 1770 and 1772.

(2) John Purling. *Vide* No. 98, p. 129, note 1.

[No. 168.]

COLONEL GILBERT IRNSIDE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, April 13th, Fort William.—I am very grateful for your civility to Mrs. Ironside and her brother. I have just seen Mr. Palk and his wife. Although he incurred the Company's displeasure some years ago, I think he might have been treated more leniently in consideration of his good service at Patna. "From Mr. Hastings, however, I am persuaded he will meet with those instances of esteem and regard he can wish for from the Governour and the friend. George is now next to Council, and *I am afraid* will soon be called to the Board.

"There was a talk not long since of Mr. Hastings' intentions to desire my assistance to promote the public cause, and in consequence to remain at the Presidency with him. Whether he perseveres in his resolution I know not. His accession to the Chair was on the 13th instant. A few days therefore will determine whether I am to continue a devious campaign life, or to repose under the olive shade 'till my rank entitles me to a brigade. The latter I think most probable, for though experience and disappointments have rendered me rather diffident of cherishing too fond and sanguine expectations from the smiles of power, yet I have the firmest reliance on the obligations of friendship . . .

"From the library of the Nawab Mahmud Riza Chān<sup>(1)</sup> I had the good fortune to meet with a copy of the digests or pandects of the Arabian Canon and Civil Laws. One volume is entirely transcribed, and my Arabic writers are advanced far in copying the remaining one with the Comment. I thought it preferable to procure both rather than the second volume only that you wrote for, least the first of yours should be imperfect. They will be ready to dispatch by the packet of September.

"In political matters here there is nothing very remarkable. The King, in the hands of the Morrattas, gained a considerable victory over the Rohellas in the course of the month of February, and afterwards besieged a strong fortress in the same country called Pattagur,<sup>(2)</sup> where he took an immense booty. Shujah Dowlah, against whom the Moratta[s], from former resentments, have long vowed vengeance, is at present with his forces on the Rohellah frontier, and one of our brigades at the Caramnassah<sup>(3)</sup> in readiness to march to his assistance. But it is now the general opinion that they will not trouble him this season, for they entertain a very formidable idea of our force united to the Vizier's, and with reason.

(1) Nawab Muhammad Razā Khan was Naib Diwan, or finance minister, of Bengal until the Company itself assumed the Diwani in accordance with the grant procured by Clive.

(2) Patthagarh, a fort now in ruins in the United Provinces. The place was sacked by the Marathas in 1772.

(3) The river Caramnassah (Karamnāsā), a tributary of the Ganges, formed the boundary between the Company's Bengal territories and the country of the Nawab Vizier of Oudh.

"All apprehensions of a French invasion may be laid aside, I think, for this monsoon. Last year, indeed, they might have effected much from the supineness, negligence and weakness of our administration; but neither in present nor in future can they have any great probability of succeeding, for we have now a very large force near Calcutta, and the fortifications on the river and at Fort William are advanced beyond an apprehension of insult. Another year I hope completes them . . ."

"GILBERT IRONSIDE."

[*Holograph, 3¼ pp., flscp.*]

[No. 169.]

LAU[RENCE] SULLIVAN to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Park Place, St. James's.

1772, May 27th, Queen Square.—"Dear Sir, I am now to give you a melancholly state of those affairs that in the decline of life have compleated my ruin.

"When Mr. Waller's bond is recovered we have sufficient (within one hundred pounds either way) to discharge every debt (your own excepted), and upon the close will stand thus:" . . . To you I owe 10,490*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, and to Henry Vansittart's estate 7,325*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*; total 17,815*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*

"For these sums it's at present out of my power to offer more than my bonds, my estate being (between ourselves) mortgaged to Mr. Dunning<sup>(1)</sup> . . . My India qualification is also mortgaged. I have nothing left. All that I can at present secure to you or the family is "the sums due from Mr. Maclean,<sup>(2)</sup> Lord Shelburne, Lord Verney and Mrs. Forest, aggregating 9,070*l.* "If these are accepted as transferrs, my debt of 17,815*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* will be reduced to 8,745*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*; or my bonds may be taken for the whole sums, and these made over as part payment when received. I have not a shilling more to appropriate. We live now principally upon my son's income, the good youth hardly allowing himself 100*l.* a year. My wife (who merits a better fate) suspecting and dreading (though not knowing) my circumstances, has often pressed me to part with our two houses [? horses], coach and some servants, which indeed I had agreed to, but Mr. Motteux<sup>(3)</sup> soon convinced me that such a step would defeat all my prospects both as to India or even the India House, giving my enemys the very proof they were in diligent search of for to destroy me.

"I trust, however, that nobody shall suffer, as my determination is fixed to go to India, and hope and believe there will be no difficulty; but my desperate situation and the contents of this letter must be lodged in your own breast, for in its extent this is known to no soul living but your self.

"As I have experienced your affection, I build upon your

(1) John Dunning. *Vide* No. 105, p. 135, note 4.

(2) Colonel Lauchlan Maclean.

(3) John Motteux. *Vide* No. 97, p. 127, note 1.



friendship to settle for me with Mr. Van's executors before you leave town, and indeed I ask and entreat it as the greatest favour; for my feelings are such and my heart, thank God, so pure, that disagreeable altercations with Mr. Boehm<sup>(1)</sup> or even the most distant insinuation writ [?] would hurt me beyond expression; for though I will never complain, I must do justice to Mr. Boehm's character as an honest man. Yet I cannot forget him (and I have a witness to remember) as the cause of my present extensive misery. I will not doubt but the family have some regard for me, and good policy must lead them to every act of consistent tenderness, for abroad I may be of essential service, and even at home (should it be wanted) a usefull friend, and I think my conduct has ever been such as to claim their confidence . . .

"As the ballance of my account differs from the amount in the books kept by Mr. Motteux, . . . I shall be ready to meet Mr. Boehm at Mr. Motteux's to explain the whole to him . . ."

"LAU. SULIVAN."

[P.S.]—"I look upon the whole that Mr. Maclean owes to be very secure, for (not to be mentioned) Sir George Colebrooke is pledged to send him to India to some very lucrative post."<sup>(2)</sup>  
[*Holograph, 2 pp., flscp. Wax seal bearing arms.*]

[No. 170.]

L[AURENCE] SULIVAN to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr., Park Place.

N.D. [1772, *cir.* end of May]. Wednesday.—"Since my letter to you was closed I have received from Mr. Motteux the accompany[ing] note sent him by Mr. Boehm. It is Mr. Motteux's desire to do no more than to deliver Mr. Boehm cyps of my account and Mr. Vansittart's, deceased, as they stand upon the books; or the books themselves for Mr. Boehm to take cyps; or he will meet Mr. Boehm and me (if I ask it), and follow our directions. I have given Mr. Motteux no answer, nor will he be in town untill next week.

"I can have no objection to settle my account, and leave out the unliquidated claims, and there are but two ways of adjusting:—the one as stated to you in my letter, where I consider my self as answerable for the whole deficiency, to you for your whole debt, and to Van's estate for his ballance; or, to you for my half of your debt, and Van's estate answerable to you for the other moiety. This no doubt you may claim, which puts my debt to Va[n] at upwards of £12,000, and to

(1) Edmund Boehm. *Vide* No. 97, p. 127, note 2.

(2) Lauchlan Maclean entered the Bengal Army as Captain in 1758, and retired as Major in 1766. Re-appointed by the influence of Sir George Colebrooke, who was Chairman of the Court of Directors in 1772, Maclean returned to India with the rank of Lt. Colonel and the appointment of Commissary General, Bengal. In 1775 he was selected to act as Hastings's agent in England. He watched the Governor General's interest in Parliament, negotiated with the King's Ministers and the Court of Directors, and took part in the conference at Haldon House which led to his tender of Hastings's conditional resignation. Colonel Maclean, who also represented Nawab Walajah in England, died in 1778.

you 5,240*l*. It will be kind (and I trust safe) if you suffer me to be your debtor for the whole, when the executors will make no great difficulty in taking my bond for the 8,000 and odd pounds. They may for 12,000*l*.

"My dear friend, the hour grows critical to me and those who depend upon payment. Rash and imprudent conduct may be destructive. For this reason I dread your going out of town. For God's sake fix matters for me before you go. It shall be the last trouble I will give you. My obligations to you are great: my heart will ever gratefully feel them, and I pledge myself you shall not suffer by me. The Supravision I think will take place in a fortnight or three weeks, which will end all my difficultys.

"I am, dear Sir, your faithfull and most affectionate

"L. SULIVAN."

[*Holograph, 1½ p., 4to. Wax seal with arms.*]

[No. 171.]

LAU[RENCE] SULIVAN to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Park Place.

N.D. [1772, *cir.* end of May]. Queen Square.—"All in my power is to thank you, and, if Providence favours me, you shall not suffer. I will meet Mr. Boehm at Mr. Motteux's at 11 o'clock next Wednesday.

"Mr. Ley has desired to continue with Captain Hough, and Hough and Mr. Lane<sup>(1)</sup> are as desirous to keep him." Should he wish a transfer to another ship I will do what I can, but it will be best for him to remain in the *Ponsborne*.

"LAU. SULIVAN."

[*Holograph, ¾ p., 4to. Wax seal with arms, defaced.*]

[No. 172.]

HENRY VANSITTART, jun., to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1772, August 28th, Bengal.—"Dear Sir, Mr. Palk sent me your letter from Calcutta to Cossimbuzar, where, after the fatal accident that carried off Mr. Morse, I was sent by my friends, and became one of Mr. Hastings's family. From thence I set off a week ago for Patna, and am now advanced on my way as far as Raja Mall.

"As I shall never be settled till I see my uncle, I long much for the time, as I do not doubt, from the affection he expresses, he will afford me all manner of assistance, and particularly in my study of the Persian language . . ."

"HENRY VANSITTART."

"September 9th. I arrived yesterday at Monghyr, which is situated at the distance of more than 300 miles from Calcutta. Mr. Finch,<sup>(2)</sup> who was my shipmate, is now an ensign upon the Coast, and at present is stationed at Trichinopoly . . ."

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to.*]

(1) Thomas Ley was third officer of the *Ponsborne*, under Captain Samuel Hough, and Thomas Lane was managing owner of the ship.

(2) Ensign James Finch.

[No. 173.]

ENSIGN J. SNELLING to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, September 2nd, Jillmore.<sup>(1)</sup> My brother forwarded to me your kind letter of condolence on the loss of my mother. Thanks to you, I am now able to support myself. I saw Mr. Morse shortly before his death. Both he and Mr. Goodlad showed me kindness. I was unfortunate in not seeing service either at Tanjore or in the Marawa expedition. When my battalion left Palamecotah for Madras I was transferred to this place, which is near Ganjam.

[Holograph, 2 pp., 4to.]

“ J. SNELLING.”

[No. 174.]

WARREN HASTINGS to LAU[RENCE] SULIVAN, Esqr.

1772, September 7th, Cossimbuzar.—“ Dear Sir, I hope you will not expect a long letter from me when you see the name of the place which I write from. I will be more communicative by the *Lapwing*, which perhaps will arrive as soon as this ship, unless I hear before that you are certainly on your way to Bengal as a Commissioner, or to Fort St. George as a Governor, for report says you must be one.

“ I have made use of the information and talents of Nund Comar. I have obtained a reward for him equal to his future services, be they ever so important, and far beyond his past deserts. And I have avoided to give him such trust or authority as he could turn to the Company’s detriment. This was the proposition laid down for me in the letter of the Secret Committee and enjoined in yours. I beg you will support and confirm your own work. I am happy that you recommended it. It was the only measure which could have effectually broken the power of Mahmud Rizza Cawn<sup>(2)</sup>.

“ Munny Begum, the widow of Meer Jaffier, is appointed Superintendent of the Nabob’s household, an irreconcilable enemy to Mahmud Rizza Cawn.

“ Rajah Goordass, the son of Nund Comar is made Dewan of the Nizâmut.

“ The Nabob’s stipend is reduced from 32 lacks to 16. This ought to have been done 7 months ago.

“ The settlement of the revenue of Bengal has been begun and compleated as far as 60 lacks for a term of 5 years upon the plan of which you were informed in a former letter. The remainder will take up some months more. The Company will not lose nor the inhabitants suffer from our arrangements, although the depopulation by the late famine and mortality exceeds all belief.

(1) Jelmur in Ganjam, where Narāyan Deo was defeated by Colonel Peach in 1768. Cf. No. 42, p. 68, note 2.

(2) Muhammad Razā Khan (*vide* No. 168, p. 187, note 1) was arrested in August, 1772, on charges of peculation. He was eventually acquitted.



“ The Collectors still remain, but their power is much reduced.

“ It has been resolved, as the most effectual means of conducting the Dewaunee on the system ordered by the Company, to transfer the collections to Calcutta, which will become the seat of the Dewaunee and the capital of the Province.

“ Regulations have been framed for the administration of justice, which will do us little credit with the learned in the law, but they will prove of service in a land which to this day exists without any Court or forms of Justice.

“ The principles of all our measures have been to establish the new system which the Directors have adopted; to break the influence of the former administration; to avail ourselves of the present minority to establish the line of the Company’s power, and habituate the people and the Nabob to their sovereignty, and to make it acceptable to the former by an attention to their case and by a mild and equal plan of government.

“ I beg of you to read such of the proceedings of this Committee as have been communicated to the Board. You will find them, I suppose, in the Consultations.

“ Much has been said against Nund-Comar, whose real character I have endeavored to delineate.

“ The reasons assigned for dividing the offices of the Nizâmut<sup>(1)</sup> and giving the chief administration to a woman deserve your attention. The preface to our judicial establishment will also shew the state of the Courts and offices of Justice before in being, and fully evince the necessity as well as the propriety of those which we have adopted.

“ The examination of Mahmud Rizza Cawn still remains in suspense. I am inclined to leave it to the Supervisors, for I doubt the sufficiency of my own powers to bear me through it.

“ The other enquiries referred to me will only serve to shew the impotency of the authority which constitutionally rests with the President. You empower me to punish, but you give me no means to call the offenders to account. But I am going into too wide a field for the time allowed me to finish this letter. This may be the subject of a longer.

“ We are yet happily at peace, but great pains have been taken by the Vizier<sup>(2)</sup> to draw us into a war, which I shall use all my efforts to avoid. In this I hope to be heartily supported by my fellow laborers. The Marrattas have retired, as was foreseen, from the Rohella country, and are engaged in a war with the Jauts<sup>(3)</sup> with little success. They will probably return after the rains. The Vizier has demanded the presence of our forces, which we have promised, with a declaration that they shall be employed only in the defence of his dominions, but not move an inch beyond them unless the Marattas begin hostilities

(1) *Nizâmat*, administration.

(2) *Shuja-ud-daula*, Nawab Vizier of Oudh.

(3) The Jâts occupied territory to the westward of the Rohillas.

with us. The King is at Delhi in union, that is, in subjection to the Marrattas.

“I am, with the most sincere regard, dear Sir, your obliged and faithful servant,

“WARREN HASTINGS.”

[Autograph, 6 pp., 4to. Duplicate.]

[No. 175.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1772, September 27th, Madras.—I enclose my last letter, which missed the ship at Tellicherry. Hence I am not yet in correspondence with Mr. Sullivan; in fact it will be of little use to write to him, as we hear he is to be our next Governor. I received your letter of the 2nd December from Haldon House, and one of the 2nd February<sup>(1)</sup> from Park Place, delivered by Captain Baker. The orders received from home commend our proceedings except in regard to Coote. In this matter the Directors are inconsistent:—“When Coote comes out they declare his commission to be *similar to that of General Lawrence*; while the General *remained here under that commission* they declared their Governor to be *their superior military officer*; and now they say they intended that Coote should have had the powers he claimed. I am ashamed of them . . . The papers and some private letters make mention of a speech made by Coote in the House of Commons relative to the discipline of our troops. The confidence of some people is astonishing! Could you believe that this man never saw any of the troops whilst he was here but those of Madras (allowed on all hands to be the worst disciplined in the service), and the recruits at Poonamallee, and yet he could take upon himself universally to condemn? . . .”

I am glad that the plan of sending out Supervisors is suspended, though they might have been of some use in Bengal. “Hastings is warm on the plan of reformation, and has already so curtailed the expences as to render the clear revenues to the Company much more considerable than they were . . . I have seen more of the charges laid against Lord Clive than has possibly fallen to your share or that of most in England, and have not a doubt respecting the truth of most of the articles; and yet I do not think the accused will meet with their deserts. The truth is that they cannot suffer without others are also involved, and I imagine that after some little bustle in the House of Commons the affair will drop.”

I told you in my last of the expedition projected against the Marawars. “It did take place accordingly, and with little trouble the countries of both Marawars were subdued. The treasure taken in Ramanadapuram and Calacoil is said to have been immense; but whatever sums were then obtained, the

(1) Vide No. 149, p. 169, and No. 153, p. 170.

acquisition to the Nabob is immense, as the countries, even without tyranny and oppression, are well worth 20 lacks of rupees per annum . . . The Colleries<sup>(1)</sup> in those parts are still troublesome, and the eldest son<sup>(2)</sup> with a detachment keep[s] the field: but every thing must be soon totally subdued . . . The Marattas, finding it impossible totally to subdue Hyder, have compromised matters for 60 lacks and returned to their own country. Hyder will not be in a condition to disturb us for some time. The Soubah is too weak to create troubles in the Circars. The French are by all accounts returned to Europe with their ships and troops, and I think matters wear a general aspect of peace. We have had no disputes with *the Plenipo* since those I wrote you of, though there have been some little bickerings with *the Admiral*, but not of much moment . . .

“It is now the 2nd October, eleven years this day since we landed at Madras. How many more shall I be obliged to slave? I shall have much to say to you when Du Pré leaves us. I think that in him I have made a valuable addition to my friends . . .”

“W. M. GOODLAD.”

[*Holograph, 7 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 176.]

J[OHN] M[AXWELL] STONE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, September 30th, Fort St. George.—I send this by the *Hawke*, sloop, which the Admiral is dispatching to the Cape.

“The Morattas, having made peace with Hyder Ally, are returned to their own country. The Maravar and Naalcooty<sup>(3)</sup> Polygars have, at the desire of the Nabob, been reduced. We have now two detachments in the field, the one employed in assisting the Nabob to settle that country, and the other is going against the Polygars in the Tinnevelly country, whom we were obliged to call to account in 1765, and whom the Nabob represents as being refractory and disobedient. Our disputes with His Majesty’s Minister are for the present subsided. Most of the French troops are returned to Europe from the Islands, and the Company’s affairs on this coast wear as favourable an aspect as can be expected considering the state of their present connexions with the Nabob . . .

“You will probably have received advices from other hands of the death of Mr. Morse. Mrs. Morse, soon after the event, sent for me and requested of me, in case of her death, to be one of her executors. My earnest desire of affording all the assistance in my power to a family so respectable, and with whom you are so nearly connected, induced me to assure Mrs.

(1) The *Colleries* (*Kallars*) of Madura and Tinnevelly, men skilled in forest warfare, formed the irregular levies of the local Poligars.

(2) Umdat-ul-Umarā.

(3) The Nālkottai Poligar was the Little Maravar. He is now styled Raja of Sivaganga.



Morse of my readiness to accept of the charge." Mrs. Morse has since been seriously ill, but is now better. "On the death of Mr. Morse, Mr. Boddam<sup>(1)</sup> at Tellicherry requested that I would, with Mr. De Friez, take charge of his affairs. This I have consented to, and so much the more readily as Mr. De Friez, who had the management of them in Mr. Morse's time, is well acquainted with the state of them.

"After just seventeen years' service I was in June last taken into Council and appointed a member of the Select Committee. By desire of Mr. Du Pré I still, however, retain my post of Secretary to both." I shall be glad to relinquish the secretaryship, which I have held for ten years. "Whenever I resign I believe Goodlad will succeed to my department, for which no one is better qualified . . .

"I believe Mr. Du Pré will certainly leave us in January. It will not be easy to find a person endowed with equal abilities, steadiness and attention to business to succeed him. We have no intimation from home who the person is to be. If a successor does not arrive before his departure, he will leave the charge of the Government in the hands of Mr. Wynch.

"I hope Mrs. Stone and my little girl are before this time safely arrived in England . . ."

[*Holograph*, 6½ pp., 4to.]

"J. M. STONE."

[No. 177.]

REYNO[LD] ADAMS to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, October 2nd, Fort St. George.—"Captain Baker brought me your esteemed favor of the 7th February. . . I am sorry to say that his watering scheme will entirely overset my employ, as, if he pleases, [he] may furnish all the shipping with water, which . . . is almost the only perquisite belonging to my employ, and which, since the arrival of the squadron, has been something considerable." I have represented this to Mr. Du Pré, who admits the hardship but will not interfere.

"By the death of Mr. Morse Mr. Goodlad is, I believe, your sole attorney. I shall regularly pay him the rent of Miss Palk's house, which, if ever you should chuse to dispose of, I will be glad to purchase at what price you may please to put on it . . ."

The person sent out to succeed me is a Mr. Taswell, who is trying to secure the command of a country ship until I leave the service. My health has not been good of late, and I shall resign if Captain Baker succeeds with his water scheme. The latter has not treated me generously, and I hope you will use your influence to prevent my being deprived of the right of watering the shipping. Failing this, I might share the right with Captain Baker, with whose town water supply I should not interfere.

"REYNO. ADAMS."

[*Autograph*, 2¾ pp., flscp. Duplicate.]

(1) Rawson Hart Boddam, afterwards Governor of Bombay.

## [No. 178.]

W[ILLIAM] M[ARTIN] GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, October 3rd, Fort St. George.—In my letter of the 30th September “ I mentioned the death of Mr. Morse. By this accident and the departure of Mr. Hastings, Wynch and I are left your only attornies here, and he probably will not remain long with us, and it is therefore necessary that you should join someone with me. It will be necessary also that you send particular instructions relative to your affairs in general, for the executors of Mr. Morse tell me that your sentiments are partly conveyed in private letters to him and partly in general letters to your attornies. His affairs are left in so perplexed a state that, though he died in May, I could not obtain the papers till a few days ago.” The amount due to you will be about Pags. 6,500, and to the General Pags. 1,500. “ Permit me to recommend Mr. William Petrie<sup>(1)</sup> to be joined with me in the management of your affairs. I know his worth, or I would not mention him.”

“ W. M. GOODLAD.”

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to.*]

## [No. 179.]

CHOCAPAH to the Hon'ble ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, October 10th, Fort St. George.—“ Governour Du Pré's intention is to place Mr. Wynch in the government of this place, and to take his passage home in January next. This gentleman in every respect made a good Governour, and all the inhabitants in these parts enjoyed peace and quietness in his government. The Marattys has at last settled with Hyder Ally, and received eighty lacks of rupees and gone up to their country. I hope they will not [give] trouble to the Carnatick for sometime ; and Hyder, after settling with them, is preparing his army to go against the King of Travencore to see if he can get any thing there.”

The French received three ships from France this year with goods and money. At Pondicherry they have now 700 men and 400 sepoys, and works of fortification are being carried on by M. Law. “ Mr. Charles Smith<sup>(2)</sup> went to Pondichery in August last and stayed there for about a month, married one of the daughters of Mr. Law, who was a military officer when that place was taken by the English, and brought her sister with him to get her a husband. General Smith resigned the service to Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher, and intends taking his passage home in January next.”

(1) William Petrie, a Madras civil servant of 1765, became Resident at Nagore on the acquisition of that territory in 1778. He subsequently erected an astronomical observatory at Madras, which was taken over by Government in 1789. In the following year Petrie entered Sir Charles Oakeley's Council as second member, and in 1809 he was appointed Governor of Prince of Wales's Island, where he died in 1816.

(2) Charles Smith. *Vide* No. 118, p. 146, note 1.

Mr. Andrews<sup>(1)</sup> has resigned the service and goes to England; Mr. Stratton<sup>(2)</sup> has become Chief at Vizagapatam, and Mr. Brooke<sup>(3)</sup> is to relieve Mr. Wynch at Masulipatam. It is reported that Mr. Sullivan will come out as Governor. If he does, please recommend me to him. "Mr. Morse departed this life the 28th May last, who was a father and freind to all the people in Madrass. Jangama Chitty is in prison ever since your honour went home, and he has hardly any thing to maintain himself. I don't think he is able to discharge any part of your debts . . ."

"CHOCAPAH."

[*Autograph, 2 pp., flsep.*]

[No. 180.]

CHOCAPAH to the Hon'ble CHARLES BOURCHIER, Esqr.

[The greater part of this letter is identical with No. 179 to Robert Palk.]

1772, October 10th, Fort St. George.—"I have in my former letters advised your honour of the bad situation Cheppermall Chitty's<sup>(4)</sup> affairs were in, and that he was greatly reduced . . . for want of business in the Mint . . ., and therefore requested your honour would be pleased to intercede in his behalf to Lord Pigot, and get his Lordship to excuse him of the debt he owes to him . . ."

"CHOCAPAH."

[*Autograph, 2 pp., flsep.*]

[No. 181.]

J[OHN] M[AXWELL] STONE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, October 15th, Fort St. George.—The subject of this letter has long been on my mind, but before discussing it I desire to thank you for your favourable mention of me to some of the Directors. My obligations to you are very great.

"I am well aware how irksome, and I may say odious, a task it is to arraign the capacities and abilities of men; and I am thoroughly sensible that such an attempt may be imputed to presumption or arrogance or, what is worse, to motives of self-interest and advantage. However, as I am conscious that my intentions are only to promote the good of the Company; as I am convinced that I am addressing a friend to whom I may with safety lay open my sentiments without reserve from an assurance that an improper use will not be made of them, I shall lay them before you with that freedom which I think the subject requires.

"I remember, when you was in India, to have frequently looked over with you the list of Company's servants on this

(1) John Andrews. *Vide* No. 52, p. 78, note 1.

(2) George Stratton. *Vide* No. 47, p. 72, note 6.

(3) Henry Brooke. *Vide* No. 31, p. 51, note 2.

(4) Cheppermall Chitty, also called Tapermaul Chitty, succeeded his father Linga Chetti in 1757 as native manager of the Mint under the Assay Master.



establishment. The remarks made by you at that time with respect to some of them have since made a deeper impression on my mind; and I every day see more forcibly the danger to which this Government may be exposed by admitting persons into Council merely because they stand next in succession, without a proper regard to their merit and abilities. It is true the repeated orders of the Company on this subject are sufficiently clear and express, and give the Board full latitude in the choice of their members; but it is a subject of a very tender and delicate nature, and there are few men who are willing to declare publicly on their records their opinion of any one when such opinion may tend to the prejudice of the person in question."

You are well acquainted with the characteristics of the present members of the Board; and in view of the approaching departure of Mr. Du Pré and the difficulties we may have to meet in connection with the Minister and the Nawab, I would urge that future selections for the Council should be regulated on the basis of ability and strength of character rather than seniority. Should such a course be adopted, "I will venture to say that the Company cannot fix upon a person more deserving in every respect of such a mark of their preference than Goodlad. I acknowledge the sincere friendship I have for him; but at the same time I can assure you that is not the motive which weighs with me. I am induced to mention him from the perfect knowledge I have of his disposition, capacity and abilities, and to which you are no stranger; and I may add that the credit and reputation with which he has so long filled one of the most laborious and difficult employs in the service would, in my opinion, well justify such a mark of the Company's favor and attention . . ."

"J. M. STONE."

[*Holograph, 9 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 182.]

JOS[IAS] DU PRÉ to [ROBERT] PALK, Esqr.

1772, October 15th, Fort St. George. Received 12th April, 1773.—"I wish a successor had been appointed that I might have crossed the surf with all due forms. Yet considering that all our affairs are in tranquility, that my constitution is worn out, and that I have 150 other good reasons, I seriously intend to seat our friend Wynch in the Chair and embark for Europe in January. My enemies will blame me. I have weighed the consequences on both sides. The arguments for going appear to me irresistible, and I yield to them . . .

"Our best wishes wait on Mrs. Palk and your family. Pray remember me to the worthy General."

"JOS. DU PRÉ."

[P.S.]—"The plate I received from Mr. Bouchier has been valued and the amount paid to Mr. Morse, who, you will hear,

is numbered with those who have lived. I have shown to Mrs. Morse every attention in my power.

"Don't believe them—those I mean who told you we threatened to appeal to a higher tribunal. We said no such thing, but we made them ashamed of themselves for what *they* said, and they did not know how to get off but by accusing *us* of what *we* never said. Peace be with them. I deliver them over to their own consciences, if they have any."

[*Holograph*, 1½ p., 4to.]

[No. 183.]

EDWARD COTSFORD<sup>(1)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1772, October 15th, Madrass. Received 12th April, 1773.—

"Dear Sir, After so long a silence it is with difficulty I can prevail on myself to address you at all; not through want of inclination, but from a conviction that it requires more rhetoric than I am master of to set forth sufficient reasons for having so long neglected paying you my respects . . .

"About two months after your departure for England I was under the necessity of leaving Ganjam through illness, having been brought to death's door by a violent fever. During my absence Narraindoo<sup>(2)</sup> (Zemeindar of Khimedy and since dead) took possession of all the northern part of the Cicacole Circar, so that I escaped being made a prisoner, but lost all the effects I had at Ganjam. Some time afterwards, in consequence of the war with Hyder Ally, a very considerable reinforcement of troops were transported to the Coast from Calcutta, and proceeded by the way of Commamett and Worangol towards Hyderabad, which brought the Soubah of the Decan to a peace with us. The Bengal detachment not being wanted in the Carnatic, it was employed in reducing Narraindoo, and in which they so far succeeded as to drive him out of the country and take all his forts and strongholds.

"At the time the peace was made with the Soubah I made application to Mr. Bourchier to return again to Ganjam, thinking it a favourable juncture for getting a detachment of seapoys for the service of the Itchapour district, to act under my own orders. The Governour at first did not encourage it, judging there was but a small probability of any advantage accruing to the Company from the measure, and also a great risque to myself. For my own part, I was an adventurer, and had nothing to lose. So I returned again and carried with

(1) Captain Edward Cotsford entered the military service in Dec., 1758, as Practitioner Engineer and Ensign, but his name was also borne on the civil list from 1759. He served in the Manila expedition of 1762 and in the two sieges of Madura. After a visit to England he was appointed by Palk in 1766 to be Resident in Ganjam, a post he occupied for several years. He was independent of the Chief at Vizagapatam and was responsible directly to Madras. In 1776 he prepared for Orme a monograph on the development of the Fort St. George defences from 1743 to the time of the siege of 1758-59.

(2) Narāyan Deo. *Vide* No. 42, p. 68, note 2.

me a detachment, and was as expeditious as I possibly could with the Zemeindars that I might not lose the opportunity of the vicinity of the Bengal detachment. At the close of the war with Hyder Ally the Europeans of the Bengal detachment embarked for Calcutta at Vizagapatam, and the three battalions of seapoys proceeded by land, that being an indulgence promised them at their embarkation for the Coast. In their passage through the Itchapour country I made use of their presence as essentially as I could consistent with the time they were to stay and reflections on what my situation would be after their departure. I have since from time to time been reinforced, and we have now stationed in that district fifteen companies of seapoys and the Coffery<sup>(1)</sup> company.

“I have been extremely fortunate in every measure I have engaged in in that country, and have brought the Zemeindars into some kind of order, though not without a considerable share of trouble and some loss of men, having had killed and wounded in all at different times between 4 and 500 men. However, the Company have not lost a grain of military reputation, and their revenues there are increased. We have not yet began an Investment, the country not being in a state to undertake it without the risking the loss of the money, the weaving villages lying in the Zemeindaries for the most part. . . . At present it yields an annual profit of 150,000 rupees, after paying the charges civil and military, and expence of fortification and buildings. The Fort is nearly finished with a revetement—I mean the body of the place—and is sufficiently large to contain all the buildings necessary for merchandize and military stores suitable to the degree of importance of the place. As you are the person to whom I am indebted for this post, I have been somewhat more particular than I should otherwise have been. It has answered my expectations in every respect, and I feel the greatest pleasure in informing you that my conduct has always been approved by the Board.

“The Zemeindaries dependant on Vizagapatam are for the most part under the immediate management of Sitteram Rauze,<sup>(2)</sup> which is undoubtedly improper, as it prevents the Chief there from ever gaining such a knowledge of the country as is absolutely necessary to enable him to ascertain the real value of the country, and how far the revenues will bear increasing; and in all other respects it prevents the authority of the Company from being felt and understood. When that country was first taken possession of, it was, I suppose, absolutely necessary to support Sitteram Rauze in all the power he could possess himself of; but according to my judgment the reasons for such a conduct do not now subsist. It appears to me that every Zemeindar should be independant of Sitteram Rauze (who himself is no more than a Zemeindar) and of each other,

(1) *Coffery.* Vide No. 79, p. 110, note 2.

(2) Vide No. 19, p. 28, note 5.



and transact all their affairs immediately with the Chief . . . The only reason which can be offered in favour of it [*sic*] is that he is more capable, through his authority and knowledge of the country, of keeping in subjection those Zemeindars whose lands lie amongst the hills and in the interior part of the Circar. But this is by no means the case, as I know by experience that 100 of our seapoys will go where a thousand of his people dare not shew themselves.

“Some months since Hussein Ally Khan died, and the Company, I believe, allow one lack of rupees per annum to his children in lieu of the Jaguire held by the father; and the lands which formed the Jaguire have been returned to two of the Zemeindars, whose property they originally were, and their tribute in consequence proportionably increased.

“Since the war with Hyder Ally the Nabob’s affairs are, I believe, in a very flourishing state, as he has paid off a very considerable part of his debts both publick and private, besides maintaining a very respectable army. He has been very successful against the Rajah of Tanjour and the countries of the Great and Little Maravas. In some forts of the last mentioned places he found very considerable riches. An expedition is now talked of against the King of Travancore. Notwithstanding the good state of his affairs, I believe the Nabob was never less at ease than he is at present at any period of his life scarce. The interposition of the Crown in his affairs and the great attention paid to him by Sir John Lindsay caused him to assume an appearance of independance on the Governor and Council he had never before shewn. He has also by the same means acquired a very clear idea of the nature of our Constitution; but I believe he is loaded with doubts and fears, which the knowledge he has gained seems only to increase. He has discernment enough to perceive that he is in a labyrinth. He knows by experience the power of the Company, and fears the greater power of the Government.

“A few days since, Sir Robert Harland, with the squadron under his command, left this coast for Bombay. He did not take leave of the Governor, as he thought it inconsistent with his station to pay that compliment to any one acting under the authority of the Company. And the Governor resented it by not taking any notice of him at his departure, for he went on board without having any publick honours shewn him, and was not even saluted with cannon. Various opinions are given on Mr. du Pré’s conduct, and I dare say this matter will make some noise in England.

“Sir Robert Fletcher, who is now with me, desires his compliments to yourself and Mrs. Palk, with wishes for your health and happiness.

EDWARD COTSFORD.”

[P.S.]—“I am now here on a visit, and shall return again to Ganjam in a few days.”

[*Holograph, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.*]

[No. 184.]

THO[MA]S PALK to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1772, November 10th, Calcutta.—“ I left Madras the beginning of September to come here . . . I have at last paid my brother the long intended visit. I arrived here the 24th of October, when I found him very well. It is with much concern I tell you of the loss he has lately met with (which gave him much affliction for a long time) by the death of his wife. I cannot help expressing the greatest concern on my side for the loss of that amiable woman . . . I am sorry to inform you of the death of Mr. Morse, my most valuable friend, for so he was to the strictest meaning of the word ; and the good old lady has been at death's door herself, but she is now perfectly well again. She has taken her passage with Captain Elphinston of the *Triton* . . .

“ I am still under Mr. Secretary Goodlad. Had I been appointed at the time an opportunity happened at Masulipatam, I might in this [have] been money in pocket. I should have been near Captain Madge, whose assistance I should not have found wanting. I had the pleasure of seeing him in my way here at that place, where he commands, who offered me then the loan of a sum of money, which I refused for several reasons. Mr. Bouchier not only talked of his friendship for me, but might have really proved himself a friend, so that I have nothing to thank him for, and very little more Mr. J. Call. His intentions might be good, but they have proved contrary.

“ I find from my brother [that] he wrote last year requesting Grace<sup>(1)</sup> might be sent out to him, and he as well as myself were a little surprized she did not arrive. I should be exceeding glad to see her, as I hear she is grown a fine girl. . . My brother, notwithstanding his misfortunes, is in a fair way of doing well for himself, though I don't see how he could otherwise, as he has had all the advantages he could wish for . . .”

“ THOS. PALK.”

“ P.S.—Mr. H. Vansittart was at Madras some time with his grand father. He is now at Patna with his uncle, and no doubt will turn out a cliver man, as there is all the appearance at present of it.”

[Holograph, 8 pp., 4to.]

[No. 185.]

WARREN HASTINGS to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, November 11th, Fort William. Received 19th April, per *Lapwing*.—“ Dear Sir, The last letter I addressed to you, if I am not mistaken, was dated September 7th. This is to acknowledge your favor of the 26th March, 1772.

“ It affords me no inconsiderable concern to observe the people of England, and even our Hon'ble Masters, who should

(1) Grace Palk. *Vide* No. 162, p. 180, note 3.

form their opinions with more candour and exactness, thus easily induced to the credit of every calumny put forth by each paltry scribbler of the day. The productions of Bolts<sup>(1)</sup> and Dowe<sup>(2)</sup> are medlies replete, though not in an equal degree, with abominable untruths, base aspersions and absurdities. How cruel to judge the reputation of any one by such criterions !

“ I have exerted my power to the utmost to destroy even the shadow of Mahomed Riza Cawn’s influence. I have placed his enemies in his seat, and have him under a secure confinement. When I shall be able to release him God knows. It is my intention to bring him to his trial ; and I flatter myself the issue will prove that if I am not his enemy (as in fact I by no means am) yet I am incapable of being prepossessed either by partiality or bribe to serve him : but I am overwhelmed with present business and cannot look back.

“ I am sorry the House of Commons should think of establishing laws for this country, ignorant as they are of the laws in being, of the manners and customs of the inhabitants, or of the form of government. I hope the Act will not take place, for should it, every thing we have done will be destroyed, and my labour will prove like the toil of Sisyphus.

“ As before, I enclose my letter to Mr. Sullivan to you. You will read it and then deliver it to him, as I know not where he is and do not admire trusting my correspondence in strange hands.

“ Poor Griffiths<sup>(3)</sup> is with me. What shall I do with him ? He is a good and a valuable young man, and will do credit to your patronage if you will employ it to get him into the service.

“ I am, with an unfeigned and most affectionate regard, dear Sir, your most obedient and faithful servant,

“ WARREN HASTINGS.”

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 186.]

COLONEL GILBERT IRNSIDE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1772, November 11th, Fort William.—“ I have been favoured by your letter of the 19th March by Mr. Berdmore<sup>(4)</sup> . . . I took him in my hand to Mr. Hastings, and shall remember to remind the Governour of your desire to have him placed at some advantageous station. He appears to be a good young man . . .

“ By the *Lapwing*, Captain Gardener, I do myself the pleasure to send you the Arabian MSS. mentioned in my letter of the 15th of last April . . Mr. Hastings has began well. *Qualis*

(1) William Bolts, a Dutchman, was formerly in the Bengal civil service. He was deported in 1768, and subsequently published a work attacking the Bengal Government.

(2) Alexander Dow, translator of *Ferishda* and author of a *History of Hindustan*, 1770.

(3) Henry Griffiths. *Vide* No. 88, p. 117, note 1.

(4) Samuel Beardmore, a cadet. *Vide* No. 226, p. 230, note 2.



*ab incepto processerit, et sibi constet.* He had three or four mean, dirty, factious oppositions to contend with on his outset, but by the force of ability, assiduity, temper, steadiness and moderation has already almost surmounted them all . . .

"Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Palk are extremely well. Mrs. Van is lately recovered from lying in. Poor Mrs. Palk died in June, much regretted for her gentle amiable disposition. Mrs. Van, Mr. Palk, with his brother and Lieut. Stonhouse, visitors from Madras, live together at the gardens about a mile from town. George, it is expected, will be called down to take his seat at the Board about February. . . The fortunes of civilians are at present created from the rank of Senior Merchants to Factors, while the Council as well as the Governour are starving."

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

"GILBERT IRONSIDE."

[No. 187.]

HEN[RY] GRIFFITHS<sup>(1)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1772, November 12th, Calcutta.—Accept my grateful thanks for your efforts on my behalf. "Mr. Hastings, to whom you were so kind [as] to recommend me, has done every thing in his power to serve me. I am at present at his house in expectation of being employed. It will be shortly, I hope, as a young man cannot live here on a trifle and without the emoluments of any employ . . ."

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

"HEN. GRIFFITHS."

[No. 188.]

THO[MA]S PALK to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1772, December 1st, Calcutta.—"I some time ago was requested by your attornies to deliver to them an account of the estate of my two deceased cousins, which I should have done had I come at the least knowledge of [it], though I have not had anything to do regarding it. . . I am sorry to observe to you, though I believe I have done it in a former letter, of his having left a child unprovided for, which is a cruel circumstance. . . . Captain Madge and myself shall be careful that it never wants . . . Madge as well as myself are sorry that we were so hasty in giving Palk's mother an estimate of the estate, as we might have detained some part of it for its maintenance without her suffering by it, as the death of her two sons ought by no means to lay her under the expectations of an independency . . ."

"I request, Sir, that you will deliver the enclosed to my young sister Grace, who I as well as my brother are waiting with great impatience to see . . ."

"THOS. PALK."

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

(1) Henry Griffiths. *Vide* No. 88, p. 117, note 1.

[No. 189.]

STEPHEN SULIVAN<sup>(1)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.]

N.D. [?1772] Sunday. Essex Court, Temple.—“For God’s sake, my dear Sir, let me entreat you by that love and regard that I hope you still have for one who will always be proud of your good opinion, let me entreat you to pay that attention that I wish to the subject of this letter, for in so doing you will confer a favor upon me greater than it is possible for you to conceive, unless you could put yourself into my particular situation. But, do what you will, I am afraid that you cannot relieve my mind from those uneasy reflections with which it has been agitated for some time past, though I have had fortitude enough to disguise it from the world. It is but too certain that I am distressed for money: if therefore, without an inconvenience to yourself, you could give me an order for 500*l.*, I pledge myself to you, as a young man who never yet deceived anybody, that at the expiration of six months I will repay you most chearfully; and this (I speak positively) the remittances of my own income from Ireland will enable me to do.

“I ought now, Sir, from a principle of justice to you as well as to myself, after having made known my request, to make you acquainted likewise with the reasons for this application; otherwise at first sight it may seem to argue a something in my own conduct that might expose me to the just reproof of a parent, which I therefore mean to avoid, or else a distrust of that parent, as if he had refused to supply me in whatever was reasonable, and had therefore reduced me to the necessity of soliciting in another quarter. From both these imputations I can affirm with safety that I am free. There is no part of my conduct (though perhaps it has never been, nor is at present, nor ever will be, such as I wish it), there is no part of my conduct that I would not submit tomorrow to my father’s examination, because I know that as long as he continues to be a father to me, so long will he continue to be a friend. And I profess further that from my earliest infancy to this hour, from the moment that I have been capable of thinking, I have experienced such a continual series of kind offices and attentions as few other young men beside myself have experienced. What is it then that hinders me from taking that liberal and open method, to which my inclination leads me, of unbosoming myself to you without reserve, as I shall always look upon you, next to my own parent, the most worthy of my confidence and esteem? I will answer you fairly. It is a nice sense of honor, a delicacy of sentiment and a firm regard to my word—considerations from which nothing can move me . . .

“Adieu! my dear Sir. Think more for me than I am able to express, for if you knew with what reluctance I have brought

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(1) Son of Laurence Sullivan.

myself to write to you, and the peculiarity of my situation at present, you would make considerable allowances. Indeed I am not used to such a trade as this. It hurts that commendable pride that has been the fruit of a generous education ; and yet necessity must overcome even motives stronger than these. I am, with perfect regard, your sincere friend and obedient servant,

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

“STEPHEN SULIVAN.”

[No. 190.]

MEMORANDUM OF REFORMS EFFECTED BY HASTINGS IN 1772.

N.D. [?1772]—“In the beginning of June Mr. Hastings left Calcutta with a deputation from the Council consisting of Messrs. Middleton, Dacres, Lawrell and Graham<sup>(1)</sup>, and they continued at the city<sup>(2)</sup> till the middle of September executing the orders of the Court of Directors transmitted by the *Lapwing* packet. Mahomed Ryza Cawn and Shittabroy<sup>(3)</sup> were removed from their offices. An o[e]conomical arrangement was made of the Nawab's household. Munny Begum, wife of Jaffier Ali Cawn, was constituted guardian to the Nawab. Rajah Goordass, son of Nund-Comar, was appointed Naib Dewan, and Rajah Juggut Chund his Peshkar or steward. A settlement was made of the revenue by leases at an increasing rent for five years. All the useless pensions were withdrawn, and none continued except to the old provincial families—a considerable saving and beneficial, as it rids the Nawab's court of a parcel of foreigners (chiefly Persians), infamous retainers to it. A thorough regulation was established in all the Courts and offices of the State, whether civil, criminal or of revenue. These Courts with their records were removed to the Presidency, and the Council of Durbar in consequence dissolved. Regulations were formed for a certain, easy and perspicuous method for the receipt of future collections. A reform took place in the silk manufactories. Mr. Middleton was continued Chief of Cassimbuzar, Resident at the city, and Collector of the districts dependant on Mursheedabad. The three youngest members of the Committee proceeded to Dacca to make the settlement of the Eastern provinces.

“Since the return of the Governour to the Presidency his time has been occupied (exclusive of the current business) in adjusting a regular method of conducting the management of the revenue at Calcutta. Various plans were presented and considered. By some it was proposed that every Counsellor should have his distinct department of some Court, or Collector General of some province, with an appeal to lie to the Governour in the last resort ; but this was rejected on account of the many

(1) Samuel Middleton, Philip M. Dacres, James Lawrell and John Graham.

(2) Murshidabad.

(3) Muhammad Razā Khan and Shatāb Rai were Naibs or Deputies of the Nawab for the provinces of Bengal and Bihar respectively, and virtual rulers of those territories.



difficulties it was fraught with, and abuses it appeared liable to. The system actually adopted is:—One of the Counsellors to preside, in weekly rotation, over all the revenue business, the papers and accounts of which are delivered to him by the Counsellor next in rank, who previously audits them after they have been examined by the Mutsuddees<sup>(1)</sup> and Company's servants in the several offices. A daily report is made of every thing to the Governour by the Royryan<sup>(2)</sup> and the superiour native officers, and a periodical one to the Board by the weekly presidents and auditors. The employment of auditor is an introduction of the Governour's, and is found to answer so well that he designs to fix such an officer in every department." [2½ pp., flsep. Unsigned.]

[No. 191.]

THO[MA]S PALK to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1773, January 11th, Calcutta.—“I am still here with my brother, who contributes every thing in his power to my pleasure, as this happens to be the season for all sorts of diversions, of which we have little or none on the Coast.” When I hear from Mr. Wynch, who by this time must have succeeded Mr. Du Pré, I shall decide about returning to Madras. “My beloved friend General Smith” goes home “on the *Triton*, in consequence of which the command of the troops has devolved on Sir Robert Fletcher, who is universally despised, the court martial business<sup>(3)</sup> having laid a stain on his principles that will never be forgot or washed out. Consequently I have not the least intimacy with him.” There is a report here, which I do not credit, that Mr. Barwell,<sup>(4)</sup> of the Bengal Council, is to be Governor of Madras. Should it prove true, I shall take care to ingratiate myself with him.

“Mr. George Vansittart is coming down from his Chiefship at Patna to take his seat at the Board. Mrs. V., my brother and myself are going up as far as Cossimbazar to meet him in a week more, *a thing not common in this country for a wife to go any small distance to meet her husband*.

“The army here is in motion. They are marched up to the frontiers of Suja ul Dowlah's country to be a check on the Morattoes. They have paid the King of Delhi a visit, and were very ruffly received by him. The King and them have had an engagement, in which the former was worsted, with great loss on both sides . . .

“Mr. Secretary Goodlad, since I have left Madras, has been in a very dangerous way. He has had a violent attack in his liver, for which he has been cut, and is recovering very fast . . .”

“THOS. PALK.”

(1) *Mutsuddee*, *mutasaddi*, writer, clerk.

(2) *Royryan*, *rairaian*, chief revenue officer under the Diwan.

(3) Lieut-Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher was cashiered in 1766 for supporting the combination of Bengal officers. Cf. No. 141, p. 163, note 2.

(4) Richard Barwell, afterwards a member of the Supreme Council.

“P.S.—I beg leave to hint to you that it will be doing me in [*sic*] a great service to prefer me as a tenant to the one<sup>(1)</sup> in it, as the present one rather makes more use of it as godowns<sup>(2)</sup> than a dwelling house. Your attorney must also have your directions regarding it. It will be easy to get him out without giving offence by your specifying that you chuse to serve me preferable to one who has less right to expect it. Be so good, Sir, as to take notice of this by the first ship.”

[*Holograph*, 6 pp., 4to.]

[No. 192.]

ANT[HON]Y GOODLAD to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1773, [*cir.* January 11th], Calcutta.—I received your letter of the 7th February by Mr. Kennaway<sup>(3)</sup>, to whom I will show every attention. For the last two months he has been my assistant in the Translator's office, where he is working well. From the correspondence of Mr. Hastings with Mr. Sullivan you doubtless know of the various changes made by the Governor. “I shall be happy if they meet with the approbation of the Gentlemen at home, but they are of late so very difficult to please that I must confess in many instances I doubt of success. Mr. Cartier returns to Europe upon this ship after having experienced, I must say, the severest treatment from his employers for his 23 years' services. If a disinterested conduct in a public capacity is meritorious in these days, they will never meet with such another Governor of Bengal.

“A violent attack of the liver, which my brother Martin has labored under for some time past, and for which he has undergone the operation of having his side opened, gives me too much reason to apprehend that a trip to Europe is absolutely necessary for the re-establishment of his health. I am very sorry for the occasion, as it cannot, I am afraid, prove otherwise than highly prejudicial to his interest . . . He is the head and support of the family, and on his success depends the enjoyment and happiness of the whole . . .”

“A. W. GOODLAD.”

[*Holograph*, 5½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 193.]

JA[ME]S DANIELL<sup>(4)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, January 28th, Cuddalore.—I venture to write to you on behalf of our common friend Sir Robert Fletcher, who “has not only felt the effects of Mr. Du Pré's measures since the resignation of General Smith, but has some reason to apprehend

(1) Reynold Adams, tenant of Palk's house in Fort St. George.

(2) *Godown*. *Vide* No. 2, p. 5, note 10.

(3) Richard Kennaway. *Vide* No. 153, p. 171, note 4.

(4) James Daniell, a Madras civil servant of 1761, entered Council in 1777. He was Chief at Masulipatam in 1782, and retired in 1785.

his representation of them at home. Sir Robert is of course obliged to exert all his influence to prevent such an intention ; and as you have been often pleased to serve him at the tribunal of Leaden hall, he hopes you will not forsake him on the present occasion . . . .”

I chanced to see the papers relating to recent disputes in Council, which are now transmitted to Europe. They are voluminous, but I can give you an idea of the origin of the trouble in a few words. “ It began by an application from the Nabob, introduced by the Governor, to be addressed from the Board under the title of *Arzdasht*<sup>(1)</sup> ; and the impropriety of doing so will appear to you by reading the different dissents. The Governor has, however, succeeded, and though this mode of address is only used throughout Indostan from an inferior to a superior, the Governor and Council have adopted the practise. When a difference of opinion has once appeared between men in power, it seldom ceases on a sudden, but serves only as a prelude to other discords. So it is in the present instance, and as the authority of command is a theme on which Mr. Du Pré has often exercised his abilities, it has been again renewed with all its force. Sir Robert, in consequence, has been voted from the Council and ordered within 2 days to proceed to the command of the fort and garrison of Trichenopoly. Thus is he placed beyond the reach of opposition and deprived of his seat at the Board, to which the Court of Directors have been pleased to appoint him. On a perusal of the papers you will be able to form a judgment of the propriety of Sir Robert’s proceedings, and determine if any part is the effect of private pique, or contrary to the intention of his employers. If not, I presume that you will not only assist his cause, but exert your influence with the Directors to assist the rights of justice and prevent the attempts of a misrepresentation.

“ Sir Robert would have wrote to you on this subject if his time had permitted him to do so. He passed here yesterday on his way to Trichenopoly, and desired me to communicate the substance of his cause, and hopes you will admit his apology for not addressing you himself.

“ You may much better conceive that [?than] I can express my feelings by closing this letter with the account of poor Goodlad’s death. He had been lately cut for an inflammation in his liver, and a relapse carried him off. He is universally lamented, and the Company have reason to regret the loss of his abilities.”

“ JAS. DANIELL.”

[*Holograph, 5 pp., 4to.*]

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(1) *Arzdasht*, Pers., a humble (written) petition. It is not a title, as stated by Daniell, but a respectful form of address.



## [No. 194.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, January 28th, Fort St. George.—“Gouverneur Du Pré takes his passage home on the *Nassau* . . . and leaves the Government in the hands of Alexander Wynch, Esqr., who is a gentleman that has been a long time in India<sup>(1)</sup>, and well acquainted with the affairs of this country; and besides he is civil, good natured, and will undoubtedly make a good Governour. I wish he may keep the Chair for some time, but it is strongly reported here that Mr. Sullivan is coming out for President of this place . . . .

“The Morattas will, I hope, give us no trouble this year on account of Madavarave, their Chief, departing this life about two months ago, and his brother Narranrave being appointed Chief in his room, and his uncle Rakobah is appointed General of the Army; which will take up some time more to settle their family affairs. . . .

“The Export Warehousekeeper carrys on the Company’s Investment by employing Gomastas<sup>(2)</sup> in the weaving towns, and the goods he provides now is very good and in proper order. . . . Mr. Samuel Johnson<sup>(3)</sup> married Miss Law, a lady that came with Mr. Charles Smith from Pondichery lately . . . .”

“CHOCAPAH.”

[P.S.]—“Poor Mr. Goodlad departed this life the 24th instant.”  
[Autograph, 1 p., demy.]

## [No. 195.]

GOONTOOR VENCATA RAMIA and VENCATA ROYLOO to the  
Hon’ble ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, January 31st, Madras.—Your old servant, Braminy Goontoor Vencatachelum, is dead, and we his brothers, being in poor circumstances, beg you to help us to obtain employment under the Company.

“GOONTOOR VENCATA RAMIA  
VENCATA ROYLOO.”

[1 p., flscp.]

## [No. 196.]

W[ILLIA]M PETRIE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, January 31st, 3 a.m., Fort St. George. Received 5th November.—“My much esteemed and invaluable friend Mr. Goodlad, after a long and severe illness, which he supported with the most manly fortitude, bid adieu to this world the 24th instant. So long ago as . . . October last he had adopted a

(1) First employed in 1734.

(2) *Gomasta*, from Pers. *gomashla*, an agent. The substitution of perambulating gomastas for the Company’s Merchants was a reform introduced by Hastings in 1771.

(3) Samuel Johnson, a Madras civil servant of 1754, entered Council twenty years later. After serving as Chief at Vizagapatam he retired in 1781.

scheme of going to Europe, not so much on the score of health as to promote a favourite plan which he had before communicated to you in his letters. From his masterly abilities and the strongest testimony in his favour from the Board, his friends had conceived the most flattering hopes of his success. Soon after the despatch of the *Nottingham* he was attacked with a violent obstruction and inflammation in his liver, which from the beginning foreboded the most fatal consequences. However, the disease appeared at one time to take a favourable turn, and the operation of opening the side was performed about the beginning of last month with such favourable effects upon his disorder that the surgeons entertained the most flattering hopes. By the advice of Mr. Pasley<sup>(1)</sup> he determined on a voyage to Europe, and took his passage on the *Nassau* along with Mr. Du Pré. The Board gave him the strongest testimony of their high opinion of his merit and voted him a minute of publick thanks, besides recommending him in the strongest manner to the Court of Directors. But, alas, in the midst of our hopes a general suppuration took place in his liver, attended with a fever and ague, which put a period to his life on the 24th. The service, the Settlement, in short the community, mourn his loss as a servant to the Company, a valuable citizen and an useful member of society . . .

“Had not our friend been involved in joint concerns his affairs would have been distinct and his fortune something considerable, but unfortunately for him and unfortunately for his friends, his affairs are so blended and involved with Mr. James Johnson’s<sup>(2)</sup> that I am much afraid heavy losses may be expected.” For years past he has been vainly urging Mr. Johnson to settle accounts. During our friend’s last illness I took every step in my power, and even threatened Mr. Johnson with a Bill of Discovery in the Mayor’s Court, but Goodlad thought that legal action would only defeat his object. The executors, Messrs. Macpherson,<sup>(3)</sup> De Souza<sup>(4)</sup> and myself will not therefore proceed to extremities. “Mr. Johnson is in the capacity of English accountant with the Nabob, and the world supposes him in a fair way of making money, so that there may still be a possibility of receiving at least a considerable part of the debt . . . You may collect enough from what I have said to perceive that a large part of our friend’s fortune is in very indifferent hands.

“The will is unfinished. He leaves his fortune, after the payment of his debts and certain legacies, to his sister. Here the will breaks off without relating the legacies.” The amount due from Mr. Johnson is believed to be between Pags. 15,000 and Pags. 20,000. “To sum up what I have said in a few

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(1) Gilbert Pasley. *Vide* No. 47, p. 73, note 2.

(2) *Vide* No. 28, p. 45, note 7.

(3) John Macpherson, *Vide* No. 270, p. 263, note 2.

(4) Antonio de Souza, free merchant.

words :—if we recover from Mr. Johnson the money he owes the estate of Mr. Goodlad, a considerable balance, I think, will remain in favour of the estate ; but on the other hand, if we cannot recover this debt, I am afraid his estate will fall considerably short.”

Shortly before Goodlad's death I handed to Mr. Wynch the papers relating to your affairs and those of General Lawrence, together with Pags. 2,800 in cash. The balance due to you is about Pags. 5,800, and to the General about Pags. 3,800. As suggested by Goodlad, I shall be pleased to manage your affairs in India under a power of attorney.

“ Upon the resignation of our friend, a young gentleman of the name of Oakely<sup>(1)</sup> succeeded to the Civil department. He had been in the office of Deputy Secretary for two years, and had recommended himself much by his assiduity and promising abilities. Mr. Stone, who had held his office of Secretary for several months after he had been taken into Council, had continued in it during Mr. Goodlad's illness, as Goodlad intended removing to the Military department ; upon his resignation Mr. Stone quitted his office, and I was appointed Secretary and Judge Advocate General.

“ The feuds and animosities which have distracted our Council for some months past seemed to collect and unite all their force to overwhelm the President on his departure for Europe. Minutes, dissents and debates of a more violent nature than ever appeared on the records have been entered in the course of this month. The majority of the Board removed Sir Robert Fletcher from his seat by appointing him to the command of Trichinopoly. He pleaded privilege of parliament, and demanded a passage on the first ship for Europe. The Board insisted on obedience to their order : he complied, and proceeded as far as Cuddalore. The Board having enforced their authority, they not only admitted his plea, and exonerated him from all obligation to serve the Company, but also removed him from the command of the Army, and requested General Smith to resume the command and his seat in Council, which he accordingly did . . . The Board met to take leave of the President and sign the dispatches. But it was decreed that Mr. Du Pré should not depart in peace. An extraordinary circumstance happened : the conclusion was the suspension of Mr. Mackay<sup>(2)</sup> from the service. The President has been thanked by the Board for his services to the Company, and embarks to-morrow morning with his family on the *Nassau*, and leaves the Government to Mr. Wynch . . .

“ These unfortunate animosities have come unseasonably on a young secretary. The business in the Political and Military department has of late years been so extensive from our connections with the country Powers, the frequent wars we have

(1) Afterwards Sir Charles Oakeley, Bt., Governor of Madras, 1792-1794.

(2) George Mackay. *Vide* No. 13, p. 17, note 3.



waged as principals and as auxiliaries, and the violent attacks on the Company's rights by the King's Minister, that some months entirely devoted to studying the records would not have been too much to qualify me for the office of Secretary. But I have all at once been hurried into the midst of intricacies and difficulties . . . .

"The Carnatick is in profound peace with all her neighbours. The King of Tanjore, completely humbled by the late siege, makes daily professions of duty and attachment. General Smith, before he resigned the command to Sir Robert Fletcher, subdued the countries of the Great and Little Marawar. Hyder, yet smarting from his recent losses in the war with the Morattoes, seems to have adopted a defensive plan, but a mere defensive plan is not long to be expected from one of his active genius. The Maharattoes since the death of Mahadevarow seem undetermined as to any plan of action, and are more engaged in the contests of parties at home than in designs against the repose of their neighbours. The squadron is still at Bombay, and is not expected here till March or April . . . "

"WM. PETRIE."

[*Holograph*, 11 pp., 4to.]

[No. 197.]

NAWAB WALAJAH to GENERAL [STRINGER] LAWRENCE.

1773, February 1st, Chepauk, [Madras].—"The Nabob Waulaujah Bahauder, &c., presents his salâms to his friend General Lawrence, and sends him the inclosed with his wishes for long life and happiness."

[*Autograph cipher*,  $\frac{1}{2}$  p., 4to.]

[No. 198.]

GEORGE SMITH to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, February 1st, Fort St. George.—"Having declined (not refused) the execution of the new and extraordinary covenants sent out by the Company for me as a free merchant to execute, because I judge it very unsafe to trust my liberty and property into other hands than my own, lest of their being abused," I am asking my friends in London to apply to the Court of Directors for permission for me to remain here long enough to settle my affairs, that is, for about eighteen months. I beg your influence in support of my request. The Council here are friendly, but have resolved "that I am to be laid under an interdict of trade, the Company's protection to be withdrawn from me, and to be ordered home in twelve months, which last is too short a space to wind up my very extensive concerns, which when I have done, on their present footing will afford me a genteel and comfortable independency in my own country north of the Tweed."

“General Smith’s resignation of the command of the army, and his resumption thereof two days ago will surprise you, as will Mr. Mackay’s suspension from the service, which took place on the same day. Sir Robert Fletcher is left at liberty to attend his duty in parliament according to his plea . . . Mr. Du Pré’s conduct in Sir Robert’s affairs does him credit, for he has outwitted the Chevalier . . .

“Mrs. Smith, on the first December last, made me the happy father of a fine little girl.”

“GEORGE SMITH.”

[*Holograph, 5 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 199.]

THO[MA]S PALK to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1773, February 5th, Calcutta.—“We set out to-morrow with Mrs. Van (meaning my brother and me) for Cossimbazar to meet Mr. Van, who is coming down in order to be sworn into Council . . . .”

“THOS. PALK.”

[P.S.]—“Mr. Goodlad takes his passage on the *Nassau* for England for the recovery of his health . . . .”

[*Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to.*]

[No. 200.]

ROGER DARVALL<sup>(1)</sup> to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1773, February 10th, Fort Marlborough [Bencoolen].—In consideration of the friendship between you and my late parent, I beg for your kind notice, as “I am now, Sir, in a situation that requires the greatest assistance . . . .”

“ROGER DARVALL.”

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to. Wax seal, defaced.*]

[No. 201.]

THO[MA]S PALK to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1773, February 30th [*sic*], Calcutta.—“I have never but once ask[ed] for anything in the service, and that was refused me by your most then intimate friend; and if those professed friends shew themselves backward in serving me, what am I to expect from those who are clear of any such tie? I am not so presuming as to ask any thing: but from Mr. Wynch’s readiness in endeavouring to get me appointed to his Chiefship, I did, three months ago, write him a letter requesting he would do something for me, to which I have never yet seen the least reply, which not a little astonishes me. That gentleman is now in the Government, Mr. Du Pré being gone home on the *Nassau*.”

General Smith resigned the army command to Sir Robert Fletcher in August last, but owing to a difference between Mr.

(1) Roger Darvall entered the Madras civil service in 1772. He became Collector of the Northern Division of the Jaghire in 1794, and was a member of the Board of Trade from 1798.

Du Pré and Sir Robert, he has consented on public grounds to resume it. "I learn that General Coote and Mr. Sullivan left England in August, which, was it true, I think we might have seen them on the Coast by this time. I shall be happy if those accounts prove true. I think I may safely depend that he will do something for me—I mean Mr. S.

"It is with much concern I inform you of the death of Mr. Goodlad. . . He had been very severely attacked by the liver, and had been cut for it and got pretty well, when he had resolved on going to England for a season or two of cold weather. I have never heard from what cause that he died. I feel for his poor mother. The young brother Dick has also been on the point of death. I saw him last night, and he is recovering fast. I do not imagine Mr. G. died worth much money, as he was a great lover of claret and every thing that was good.

"I am about thinking of returning to the Coast. I have, 'tis true, little to do there, and less here. My brother might, if he pleases, assist me greatly, but has not yet shewed any inclination. He might however, I think, make a better use of his money. I suppose he spends not less than 4 or £5,000 a year. He is a lucky fellow."

"THOS. PALK."

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 202.]

HENRY VANSITTART, jun., to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1773, March 1st, Calcutta.—"I arrived here about a week ago, and shall begin to write for the Company in one of their offices, for I have as yet spent my time either at Madras or Patna. However, I have been idle at neither of them, and my uncle took particular care that I should find employment at the last.

"You may [have] heard of the death of Mr. Goodlad at Madras. Indeed his younger brother at Bengal has narrowly escaped it, and is now obliged to undertake a journey to Dacca for the effectual recovery of his health.

"Pray remember me kindly to your family, in which I almost include Mr. R. Boehm.

"Your dutiful nephew,

HENRY VANSITTART."

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to.*]

[No. 203.]

A[NTHON]Y GOODLAD to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1773, March 2nd, Fort William.—When I wrote my last letter "I little expected that my next to you would have been upon so melancholy a subject as the loss of poor Martin, who was carried off, poor fellow, on the 24th January by a mortification in his side, to the inexpressible uneasiness of all who were intimately acquainted with him."



As Mr. Petrie has written to you, I feel sure that you have done everything possible to alleviate my mother's affliction. There was so much family money in my brother's hands that I proposed going down to Madras, but Mr. Hastings refused permission on the ground that the affairs were already in good hands. I believe the estate will realize enough to pay everybody. I do not think my mother can be in want of money, but should she be temporarily inconvenienced, I hope you will advance what may be necessary.

"AY. W. GOODLAD."

[*Holograph, 5 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 204.]

CHOCAPAH to the Hon'ble ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, March 10th, Fort St. George.—The Government is carried on by Mr. Wynch as it was by Mr. Du Pré. There is no war; good rain has fallen; but trade is dull, especially with Manila. "It is reported here that Mr. James Johnson, that was under Mr. Bouchier, his affairs is but in a very bad situation, and that he spent of the Nabob's money thirty four thousand pagodas, which His Highness was so gracious as to forgive him so large a sum. Still it is said that he is indebted to Mr. Bouchier 10,000, to Mr. Jourdan 13,000, to Mr. Goodlad's estate 16,000, to Nellakontawker 3,500, and to some others besides; and that his debt in all will amount to about 60,000 pagodas. He don't know himself what became of so much money, and can produce no proper account for it neither."

Two years ago Mr. de Souza and sundry others formed an association to deal in piece-goods. The capital was Pags. 300,000 in 30 shares. It now appears that the shareholders have not only received no dividends, but will lose one-fourth of their capital.

Mrs. Wynch, Mr. Quintin Crauford<sup>(1)</sup> and Sir Robert Fletcher sail for England in the *Triton*. Mr. Mackay is suspended, and Mr. Monckton becomes Assaymaster in his room. I have no employment at present except "the Arrack and Toddy farm."

"CHOCAPAH."

[*Autograph, 1½ p., flscp.*]

[No. 205.]

GEORGE SMITH to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, March 13th, Fort St. George.—"Since the *Nassau* sailed I have received the orders of the Board to *transport* myself, family and effects to Great Britain in twelve months from the 23rd of February last, at the same time laying me under an interdiction of trade during that period; but this they have removed on the remonstrance of Andrew Ross<sup>(2)</sup> and

(1) Quintin Crauford was a Madras civil servant of 1761.

(2) Andrew Ross. *Vide* No. 28, p. 46, note 1.

myself, so I have no complaint to make. Inclosed I send you a copy of my letter to the Board, of which I hope you will approve. I have been moderate and honest in my reasons for not executing the new covenants, and I hope all honest men will approve of my reasons. All I want from the Company is time to settle and collect my affairs, which I hope to do by June, 1774, when I purpose going by the way of China for the conveniency of remitting my money there, and for the better accommodation of myself and family ; and I hope, Sir, that you will do me the favor to use your influence with your friends in the Direction to obtain my request, for I do not chuse to embarrass my friends here by asking them to do what may be contrary to their orders.

“ You will have heard from others, I doubt not, of Sir Robert Fletcher’s behaviour and of Mr. Mackay’s. This last must hurt himself, in the opinion of his friends, by his information against Mr. Stracey,<sup>(1)</sup> it having so much the appearance of resentment . . . I am sorry to see so many discords among us, but I steer clear of all of them . . . ”

[*Holograph, 3 pp., flscp.*]

“ GEORGE SMITH.”

[*Enclosure*]—To the Hon’ble ALEXANDER WYNCH, Esqr., President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George. Dated 6th March, 1773.

I have received your Secretary’s letter of the 23rd ultimo, requiring me to leave for Great Britain within twelve months unless I sign a new covenant. As your order casts a slur upon me, permit me to speak in my own vindication. I am already under a covenant with the Company, which I have not infringed. The new covenant renders me liable to the surrender of my personal liberty and property, and of the protection of the laws of my country—conditions to which I cannot subscribe. As “one of the Judges of his Majesty’s Court of Record at this place,” I cannot relinquish the independence so essential to a judge and magistrate. As I am already settling my affairs, the execution of a new covenant appears to be unnecessary ; but since interdiction of trade will interfere with the winding up, I trust you will see fit to remove it.

“ Permit me to add a short account of myself since my coming to India. Soon after my arrival at Madrass I went to China, where I resided some years . . . I left that country to my very great detriment in obedience to the Company’s orders. The Company, sensible of the injury done to me by ordering me to leave China, permitted me in the year 1765 to return to that country, and gave me three years to settle my affairs there, but the engagements I had entered into here previous to the receipt of that permission prevented my making use of it then ; but it being still in force, I purpose benefiting of

(1) Edward Stracey. *Vide* No. 25, p. 42, note 2.

the Company's indulgence to me as soon as my affairs here are adjusted, having large concerns in China unsettled, which may render my presence in that country necessary . . ."

"(Signed) GEORGE SMITH."

[*Copy, 8 pp., flsep.*]

[No. 206.]

MUDOO KISTNA<sup>(1)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1773, March 14th, Fort St. George.—"Since Mr. Dupré embarked . . . Mr. Wynch governs in the place, assisted by his Counsellors, especially by Messrs. Stone and Stracey. The Nabob fixed his residence firmly at Chepauck<sup>(2)</sup> near the Company's Gardenhouse,<sup>(3)</sup> and does not seem to remove to his own city of Arcot and Tirchinopoly. The country is in peace and tranquility at present, excepting the Marava and Naulcooty's<sup>(4)</sup> country, which was lately taken by the Nabob, and for that reason the Kellery<sup>(5)</sup> inhabitants of that country (who were attached to their old sovereigns) are raising rebellions in the said countries; but Colonel Bonjour,<sup>(6)</sup> jointly with the Nabob's son, is exerting himself there to suppress the same . . ."

"MUDOO KISTNA."

[*Autograph, 1½ p., flsep.*]

[No. 207.]

THO[MA]S PALK, to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1773, March 22nd, Calcutta.—Since I last wrote, I have been appointed by Mr. Wynch to Masulipatam in preference to several senior applicants. I am just starting for Madras, so cannot seek a passage direct to Masulipatam.

"It was Captain Madge that wrote me of this appointment. He writes to my brother also, proposing a most noble and generous scheme; that they do in conjunction lend me a sum of Rs. 15,000; that my brother contributes 6 or 8,000 of it, and he will do the rest; that I shall enter into a partnership with Mr. Burton, a gentleman you know at Masulipatam, who has had a deal of experience in the world . . . What my brother intends to do I know not; but this I know, that he can well afford it, and that he makes much worse use of his money than he would by setting me out in the world. I shall have the

(1) Mudoo Kistna (Muttukrishna Mudali). *Vide* No. 70, p. 97, note 1.

(2) In 1767 the Nawab acquired a house and land at the fishing village of Chepauck, one mile south of Fort St. George, and built a palace. The area enclosed measured 117 acres. The palace is now used as Government offices.

(3) The Company's Garden-house near Chepauck, one mile south-west of the Fort, replaced an earlier building in Peddanaikpetta which was destroyed by the French during their occupation of 1746-49. The new house was acquired in 1753, and it became the suburban residence of the Governor. Enlarged and extended, it is now Government House.

(4) The Nālkottai Poligar. *Vide* No. 176, p. 194, note 3.

(5) *Kellery* (*Kallar*). *Vide* No. 175, p. 194, note 1.

(6) Colonel Abraham Bonjour. *Vide* No. 30, p. 50, note 2.



greatest opportunities of making money now, provided this scheme of my friend Madge's takes. I cannot conceive that he can give any justifiable reasons for his not agreeing in it; but this I shall insist upon, that he gives no reasons to Madge that may in any means whatever prevent him from lending me any money. The amount of this is yet to be determined, and of which I shall not have an opportunity of communicating to you till October next . . .

THOS. PALK."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 208.]

1773, March 28th [Calcutta].—Letter of Attorney from ROBERT PALK, of Calcutta, constituting ROBERT PALK, of London, his Attorney. Signed by Robert Palk, of Calcutta, in the presence of Henry Vansittart and Richard Kennaway.

[2 pp., *flscp.* Wax seal bearing the words "Robert Palk" in Persian characters.]

[No. 209.]

HENRY VANSITTART, jun., to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1773, April 1st, Calcutta.—"I lived in the same family with your two nephews and Mr. Kennaway<sup>(1)</sup> for some time, but Mr. Thomas Palk left us last week and proceeded on his voyage to Madras. Mr. Thomas Stonhouse<sup>(2)</sup> (Mrs. Van's brother) went away at the same time . . . I have not yet entered upon the business of the Persian Translator's office, but shall begin immediately after the dispatch of the *Hector*. I shall profit more by all accounts in that office than I could possibly in any other . . .

HENRY VANSITTART."

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 210.]

WARREN HASTINGS to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1773, April 3rd, Fort William.—"Dear Sir, I request the favor of your care of the accompanying letters. That to Mr. Du Pré I have troubled you with because I am uncertain of his address; the others, one for Mr. Sullivan and one for Mr. Bolton,<sup>(3)</sup> I have sent under flying seals for your perusal. I have not time to address you as I could wish, a declaration which I am sure your kindness will admit as a full excuse.

"Harry Vansittart has just sent me a history of the Seneassies,<sup>(4)</sup> which I enclose with this. Perhaps it may amuse you, and you may probably consider it as a curiosity when I

(1) Richard Kennaway. *Vide* No. 153, p. 171, note 4.

(2) *Vide* No. 72, p. 100, note 2.

(3) Henry Crabb Boulton. *Vide* No. 88, p. 117, note 2.

(4) The Sanyāsīs, figuring as religious devotees, formed themselves into roving robber bands, each of several thousand men. They gave much trouble during Hastings's first year in Bengal, and native regiments were employed to hunt them down.

acquaint you that it was but yesterday morning (noon) I gave him the original to be translated. The subject is important to us, though to you it may appear trifling, for they are the people who have lately given us so much trouble by their incursions, and have obliged us to employ a considerable force to drive them out of these provinces.

"I beg my compliments may be made to Mrs. Palk, the General and all friends.

"I am, with a most sincere regard, dear Sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

"WARREN HASTINGS."

"P.S.—The letter to Mr. Du Pré and that to Mr. Sullivan, together with the history of the Seneassies are by mistake under another cover to you."

[*Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to.*]

[No. 211.]

MRS. ELEANOR ADAMS to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Park Place, London.

1773, May 14th, Tavistock.—Sends statement of account, as received from Robert Palk of Bengal, of the balance due to the estate of Captain Adams,<sup>(1)</sup> Current Rs. 7,134. 15 as. to be paid at 2s. 2½d. per rupee.

[1 p., 4to.]

[No. 212.]

REYNO[LD] ADAMS to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1773, July 7th, Fort St. George.—I duly received your letter of the 17th November, 1772. Your proposal to invest my remittance in the Funds I entirely approve. Mr. Hill and Mr. Ley brought me your letters of introduction, and I have tried to be of service to them. Both gentlemen will now proceed in their respective ships to China.

"REYNO. ADAMS."

[P.S.]—"22nd July. The *Bridgwater* is just arrived, all well on board, and I am going off this afternoon to bring Miss Vansittart<sup>(2)</sup> ashore, who is to be with Mrs. Hopkins.<sup>(3)</sup> . . ."

"REYNO. ADAMS."

[No. 213.]

Extract from a Letter from GEORGE VANSITTART to his Attorneys in England.

1773, October 9th, Calcutta.—"I have a plan of remittance, which it is necessary should be insured. I will give you as particular an account of it as I can, and leave you to manage

(1) John Adams entered the Bengal Engineers in 1761, and became Capt.-Lieut. two years later.

(2) Emelia, sister of Henry Vansittart, jun.

(3) Phyllis Hopkins, widow of Charles Hopkins who was Chief at Devikota in 1754. A seafaring man from 1730 or earlier, Hopkins was admitted to the Madras civil service in 1750. He married Phyllis Bright in 1736 and died at Madras in 1757. Mrs. Hopkins sailed for England in 1775.

the insurance so as to afford no room for quibbles hereafter. Mr. Law, Mr. Palk and myself have purchased for 30,000 rupees a ship formerly called the *Madras Merchant*, but now named the *Sarah*. She is to sail from Calcutta about the 1st of December laden with 4 or 500 chests of opium, of which it is intended that part should be sold at the different islands to the eastward where the Captain may judge it advisable to touch, and the rest at China. She is to be commanded by Captain Shaw, who has already twice performed the same voyage with safety."

Remittances will be made to you from Bencoolen or Batavia and from China as the cargo is disposed of. The value of ship and cargo is estimated at £24,000 from Calcutta to China and £10,000 from China to Calcutta, and these are the sums to be insured. The Captain expects to reach China by August, 1774, and to be back in Calcutta by August, 1775. The insurance should extend to every place within the Company's limits. "Here, where insuring is in general much dearer than in England, we could procure an insurance for 12 per cent. to China, but this would not answer our purpose of securing, at all events, a remittance to England . . . The proportions of the concern are:—on my account, one half; on Mr. Robert Palk's, one fourth; on Mr. Ewan Law's, one fourth. Do you be kind enough to insure the whole . . ."

[4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 214.]

JA[ME]S DANIELL to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, October 13th, Fort St. George.—In my letter of the 18th January<sup>(1)</sup> I mentioned Sir Robert Fletcher's contest with the Board. "Little did I then imagine I should so soon have occasion to tell you that I likewise have most materially suffered from the exertion of my duty. Mr. Turing<sup>(2)</sup> and myself have been called from our stations at Cuddalore from a desire of forwarding the Company's Investment at that Factory. From a perusal of the accompanying minutes you will find the truth of my assertion, and though the Governor and Council have been pleased to adopt another pretence for removing us, it cannot alter facts so demonstratively pointed that there remains not a single doubt to oppose them."

We are sending copies of the papers to our friends, so that the Court of Directors may not be prejudiced in their opinion, and I hope for your support against any injurious orders from the Court.

"JAS. DANIELL."

[Holograph, 5 pp., 4to.]

(1) An error for 28th January. Vide No. 193, p. 208.

(2) John Turing, a civil servant of 1762. He married in 1773 Mary, daughter of Dr. Robert Turing.



[No. 215.]

A[NTHON]Y GOODLAD to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, October 20th, Purnea in Bengal.—Your letters of the 9th and 14th April addressed to poor Martin have been delivered to me. I realize your friendship for my family, and trust that you will extend the same favour to his surviving brothers which you always showed to Martin.

The disputes between the Government and the Company in England cause disquietude in India. Some definite plan of reform is urgently needed. “Mr. Hastings has been indefatigable in his assiduity and attention to the dutys of his station, but he must have friends to support his measures at home to make them meet with the approbation of the publick; and the unfortunate event of Mr. Sullivan and his friends being thrown out of the Direction gives me too much reason to apprehend that his plans may meet with disapprobation. I, however, hope for the best, for as I have enjoyed the honor of his confidence, and experienced instances of his friendship, I cannot be otherwise than interested in his success, and ardent in my wishes for his benefit. He has lately been up the country, and settled a new treaty with Soujah Dowlah, but as I cannot acquaint you with the particulars of it so fully and explicitly as Mr. Van<sup>(1)</sup>, who was on the spot, I shall leave him to relate the matter to you . . .”

After six years of arduous work in the Persian Translator’s office I was transferred last year at my own request to the comparative retirement of the Purnea collectorship, where my brother Dick is my assistant. My prospects, however, are not too favourable. “I thank God I am honoured with the friendship and good opinion of the Governor and Mr. Van, and am sensible that they will assist me whilst they continue in the country; but, as I look upon Mr. Hastings’s situation as precarious, and that there is little dependance to be placed in these times upon a man’s holding a station which is so much the envy of half the world, I shall be obliged to you by confirming my connection with Mr. Van (which is already on a proper footing) by urging every thing on your part which you may deem me worthy of . . .”

Mr. Petrie at Madras has succeeded beyond my expectations in the settlement of my brother’s affairs. I think there will be enough to pay everybody, though I have little hope that Johnson will meet his debt.

[Holograph, 4½ pp., *flscp.*]

“AY. W. GOODLAD.”

[No. 216.]

REYNO[LD] ADAMS to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, October 25th, Fort St. George.—“My last went by Mr. Ley by the way of China, since which nothing material has

(1) George Vansittart.

happened here but the taking of Tanjour, which lately fell into our hands and is garrisoned by the Nabob. The captive King is sent to Trichenopoly.

"It is with great concern I acquaint you that this last expedition will, I fear, prove fatal to poor Major Madge. He has long been much out of order while he stayed to the northward, and not recovered when he went to the siege of Tanjour, where, contrary to the advice of his friends, he ventured in the trenches before his health was established. This brought on a relapse and a dangerous illness, so that he was advised to go to Cuddalore. About ten days ago he arrived at my house<sup>(1)</sup>, where he stayed three or four days, as he allways lives with me when at Madras. But as a cooler apartment was recommended for him, the Governor has given him a room at the Admiralty<sup>(2)</sup>. Mr. Paissley<sup>(3)</sup> attends him, but he seems loth as yet to give his opinion about him. It's said, however, that he is not worse than when he first arrived. He is very low spirited, and thinks himself that he cannot live many days . . ."

"REYNO. ADAMS."

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 217.]

EDWARD COTSFORD<sup>(4)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, October 29th, Madrass.—About a year ago I gave you some account of my work, in which I believe you are interested, as it was you who conferred on me the management of the Ganjam territory. "In all probability it will become a Settlement of importance, it being an establishment in the heart of a country which, from the quantity of grain exported from thence to the Presidency, may be considered as its granary; and indeed the amazing opulence of Madrass within these three years makes such an one almost absolutely necessary. The money received from Ganjam annually amounts to upwards of 150,000 rupees over and above maintaining near two battalions of seapoys for the protection of the country (now ind[e]ed quiet), and also, if necessary, to keep peace in the southern provinces of the Cicacole Circar.

"You doubtless will learn from other hands of the success of his Highness the Nabob against Tanjore. The reduction of that province may, I suppose, in general be considered in a considerable degree as advantageous to our nation. The Nabob is so connected with the English that, if the Government here be prudently administered, it will be very difficult for him to effect any considerable change; but nevertheless the extra-

(1) Adams rented a house in the Fort from Palk.

(2) Admiralty House in Charles Street, Fort St. George, was so called as early as 1758. It had been acquired by the Government a few years before, and it ultimately became the town residence of the Governor. The house, which is now the office of the Accountant-General, was rented by Clive in 1752-53.

(3) Surgeon Gilbert Pasley. *Vide* No. 47, p. 73, note 2.

(4) *Vide* No. 183, p. 199, note 1.

ordinary strides he has lately made towards a formidable independency ought to be considered by us as most certainly tending in the end to that degree of subordination we were necessarily obliged to submit to under the government of the Mohammedans in former times. The last siege of Tanjore has been attended with a circumstance which may by and bye be attended with serious consequences. The deposed Rajah, finding himself in a desperate situation, made over to the Dutch a grant of Nagore (a seaport) and some other districts on the sea coast for a valuable consideration in money. The lands are in value, I think, about four lacks of pagodas. The Nabob considered this act in the King of Tanjore (according [to] the feudal system of the government) as unwarrantable, and accordingly demanded the assistance of the Company to assist his troops in the recovery of the alienated lands. The Governor and Council . . . . determined on assisting him against the Dutch, in which opinion they were strengthened by the concurrence of Sir Robert Harland, the King's Minister. The Dutch are accordingly driven out of their new acquisition, and have made a protest in form to General Smith, which is signed by their whole Council. The recovery of the lands for the Nabob is but a trifle I think, as the Dutch have not withdrawn their claim, and are strengthening their fortress, which, if perfect, would doubtless be held as a strong fortification even in Europe; and they are collecting all the troops they can draw from Ceylon, and doubtless will have a reinforcement from Batavia as early as the season will permit. I think it is probable the Dutch government at Batavia have taken into consideration the practicability of such measures as might lead to their procuring some territorial possessions on the coast of Chormandell ever since the first siege of Tanjore. If so, there is no saying at present what revolutions may be brought about by their interfering with the Marattas or any other Powers. I think it is remarked of the Dutch that they are wise in their deliberations and persevering in their conduct."

As the attack of Tanjore may have serious consequences, I am surprised that the Governor and Council do not garrison the place with Company's troops. The interference of the King's Minister ought not to force the Board to any policy detrimental to the Company.

"There is still another measure which I shall take leave to say may in the end be of great detriment to the Company—I mean the bargaining with individuals beforehand (a committee of officers) for the services to be rendered by them to take the Fort for a certain sum of money to be payed them in lieu of plunder; 2,000 pagodas to each captain, and so in proportion to the rest of the army. Officers and men doing their duty under such a condition never consider themselves any other way than as conferring a favour on the Nabob who employs them; and indeed the impropriety has already appeared, it



having been reported here that the officers might probably refuse to act against the Dutch, as that did not appear to come within their agreement with the Nabob. It opens a road for the Nabob to have great influence over our troops, and has many other disadvantages . . .

"I arrived here from Ganjam in the beginning of this month in order to proceed to England, but by the loss of the *Lord Mansfield* I have been disappointed. However, I hope to make my acknowledgments to you in person about the middle of the next summer . . ."

"EDWARD COTSFORD."

[P.S.]—"As I have not time to make a copy, I hope you will excuse all errors and blots."

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., *demy.*]

[No. 218.]

JOHN D'FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, October 29th, Fort St. George.—The Nawab has given an order on the Tinnevely Renter for Pags. 36,960 $\frac{1}{8}$ , payable by instalments between November and April next, on account of the estate of the late Mr. Vansittart. The order has been sent to Captain Cooke<sup>(1)</sup> at Palamecotta so that he may receive the sums as they fall due. I have settled your own account with Mr. Morse in the Nawab's bond, and handed a statement to Mr. Stone.

[*Holograph*, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  pp., 4to.]

"JOHN D'FRIES."

[No. 219.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, October 29th, Fort St. George.—The French received this year three King's ships and eight merchantmen, bringing goods, specie and 100 soldiers. M. Law is governor general and commander-in-chief, and a M. Fochon<sup>(2)</sup> has been sent out as superintendent to settle affairs. The latter has discharged all the Company's civil servants, including those in council. M. Law and he rule Pondicherry for the King, and it is said that there will be no Company in future.

"Our army under the command of General Smith, together with the Nabob's forces under command of the Nabob's second son Maddor Ulmoolk.<sup>(3)</sup> laid siege to Tanjore in August last. After seven weeks they conquered that place on the 17th September. The King was taken prisoner, and remains there to this day. It is said the Nabob promised to treat him with all the respect imaginable and maintain his expenses."

[*Autograph*, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  p., *demy.*]

"CHOCAPAH."

(1) Apparently Captain William Cooke, who had served in the first Mysore war.

(2) Or Foucault. Cf. No. 230, p. 235.

(3) Amir-ul-Umarā.

[No. 220.]

ROBERT PALK, jun., to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1773, November 3rd, Calcutta.—Thanks to your influence, the order which removed me from Patna last year has been revoked by the Company, and I am now about to return thither. “Mr. Hastings has been very kind to me on all occasions, and on the present has shown himself particularly so by his readiness to send me back to Patna. Mr. Aldersey has given me many proofs lately of his inclination to promote my interest.”

There has been lack of rain, and the price of rice has advanced from 40 to 25 seers<sup>(1)</sup> per rupee. The export of grain is consequently prohibited. The Renters have lost heavily on their farms. Politically the country is quiet.

“You will hear of Miss Van from George and others . . . The early introduction she had into company in England has nearly disqualified her for India. At present we Indians in her eyes are but contemptible beings. However, she is upon the whole a very worthy good young woman, and I hope will be much esteemed and very happy in this country. Harry Van and the Kennaways are well.”

I enclose two interest bonds from Dr. James Ellis, payable in 1775; one on your account for £2,880, being the balance of your money in my hands; the other for £3,896 on my own account, which sum is to be invested at your discretion. George considers interest bonds a safer mode of remittance than bills.

“ROBERT PALK, jun.”

[Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.]

[Enclosure]

- (1) Company's order of revocation, 7th April, 1773.
- (2) Robert Palk's letter to the Governor and Council of Bengal, 21st Oct., 1773.
- (3) Governor and Council's order of restoration, 21st October, 1773.

[Copies, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 221.]

HEN[RY] GRIFFITHS to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1773, November 10th, Calcutta.—In my last letter I mentioned the kind proposal of Mr. Hastings that I should accompany him to Bengal. By Mr. Stone's advice I did not immediately accept; but Mr. Hastings has used his interest in England and now leads me to expect that I shall shortly obtain a nomination to the Bengal establishment. My brother William has arrived with Captain Mears, and is about to join his corps. He and I are both grateful to you for your kind exertions on his behalf.

[Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to.]

“HEN. GRIFFITHS.”

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(1) *Seer*, about 2 lb. weight.

[No. 222.]

HENRY VANSITTART, jun., to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1773, November 11th, Calcutta.—“ I have received your letter of the 10th February, and have heard the news from Emelia, Uncle George and Mr. Palk. I think Emelia much taller than when I left England, and I may add improved, if I do not offend against delicacy by speaking in praise of her. She was much disappointed at the news she heard at Madras, but I hope she is now very well reconciled to her situation at Bengal.

“ My uncle’s interest has procured me the post of Persian Translator to the Calcutta Revenue Committee, which is the beginning of my rise, and will give me practise in Persian.

“ Your nephew set off for Patna 3 or 4 days ago, very happy at his appointment . . . I shall be obliged to you if you will direct the inclosed letter to Mr. Tripe,<sup>(1)</sup> as I value my school acquaintance. I beg you will give my duty to Mrs. Palk, and my love to Nancy, Lawrence and Kitty. I have heard the history of them from my sister.”

“ HENRY VANSITTART.”

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 223.]

WARREN HASTINGS to R[OBERT] PALK, Esqr.

1773, November 14th, Fort William.—“ Dear Sir, Our friend George has kindly taken out of my hands every subject which I could write to you upon, and as I consider our correspondence as resting on a principle superior to the forms of compliment, I hope you will allow his letters to pass as mine. You will find nothing, I believe, in his sentiments differing from my own. I have a pleasure in acknowledging to you the benefits and satisfaction which I derive from his friendship.

“ I beg leave to repeat my request that Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Du Pré may see the papers which you will receive from George containing the particulars of the late treaty<sup>(2)</sup> at Benaris. The General<sup>(3)</sup> has had the last word, but I still think his arguments stand as they did, and (if I may be the judge) plainly refuted.

“ The first payment of the treaty money has been some time paid to Mr. Lambert<sup>(4)</sup>, whom I left with the Vizier to receive it, and is by this time on the way down. I beg your attention to a remark which you will find somewhere in the papers which are now going to you, that the addition of so much ready money to the exhausted currency of the country is a profit scarce less

(1) Nicholas Tripe, son of Dr. Tripe of Ashburton. Cf. No. 162., p. 180, note 3.

(2) The Treaty negotiated at Benares in 1773 between Hastings and Shuja-ud-daula, by which the districts of Korā and Allahabad were ceded to the Nawab Vizier for 50 lakhs, the British engaging to aid him in the conquest of Rohilkhand on payment of expenses.

(3) Sir Robert Barker.

(4) William Lambert, a member of the Bengal Council,



than the addition of so much to the weak Treasury of the Company.

“ I have referred General Caillaud to you for the particulars of Bengal intelligence, and beg that he too may see these papers. There are indeed some anti-military passages which may not suit his ideas, but in truth our connection with the Vizier till now rested wholly with the military commander. In all other points I have endeavoured to conduct myself with such equality between the civil and military corps that I believe I can safely say that I have not even a bias to either ; and in my conferences with the Vizier I took pains to give a consequence to the General, although I took care to let the Vizier know that his dependence was on the Governor alone. In this I surely acted with propriety. The Governor only is charged with a separate responsibility, and ought to guide the measures for which he is responsible.

“ Enclosed I send you a paper, which has been drawn up by a young gentleman of my family, containing an abstract of the arrangements which have taken place in the Revenue department. It may give a competent idea of what has been done, but over rates, perhaps, the advantages which are likely to be derived from it.

“ I beg to be kindly remembered to Mrs. Palk, the General, and all friends.

“ I am, with the sincerest regard and esteem, dear Sir, your obedient and faithful servant,

“ WARREN HASTINGS.”

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 224.]

[ROBERT PALK to THOMAS PALK].

N.D. [*cir.* 1773.]—“ Dear Tom, I have this year received from you many letters, and none of them have given me pleasure. I have provided, or endeavoured to provide, for many young men, and you are among those who seem to me least of all to deserve it ; for if I can guess from your correspondence, inconsiderate and vacant as it is, you have not only neglected your own improvement and the duty, attention, industry and diligence you owe the Company and your own character, but have given yourself most entirely to idleness, extravagance and folly very unbecoming your situation and circumstances, who have nothing to depend on but your own merit and the qualifying yourself for those offices which hereafter may fall to your share if your unworthiness does not prevent it. I pass over your hesitating between military and civil, though a young man who, having had some pains taken with his education, might at least have learnt patiently and cheerfully to submit to what his parents so much wished and had thought best for him.

“ In short, I cannot observe in your letters or your conduct one generous sentiment which can give me a prospect of your

future success and well doing. Character and a virtuous emulation after reputation and a good name seem to make no part of your pursuit, and provided you can support your illjudged extravagance, no matter from whence it comes. You are descended, if not from very opulent, at least very honest and worthy ancestors. Your father,<sup>(1)</sup> though distressed beyond measure in his younger years, preferred an honest and virtuous reputation. Your grandfather<sup>(2)</sup> lives in the friendship and esteem of all that knew him, and the same have I heard of his father<sup>(3)</sup>; and yet they had not those advantages in their youth which (happily we hoped) have fallen to your share. But the dawn of your reason seems not to have been exercised in preserving yourself from ignorance, or accustoming yourself to good habits, or reconciling to yourself the good will and kindness of those with whom you must have an intercourse. You unfortunately have judged that attention and provision is due to you, merit out of the question. It is painful to me to write such a letter, and it ought to be more so [to] you for having made it necessary. I shall mention no particulars of your idle and unthinking conduct: your own memory will serve sufficiently to recollect them. Only imagine to yourself that I am well acquainted with what you would most wish to conceal, and try to retrieve all this by adopting a little more morality into your conduct. Forget not your Creator in the days of your youth, and learn to live on your own allowances without pitifully running in debt with every man you meet or have the least connection with. The allowance I gave you was amply sufficient had you lived in the Fort as you ought to have done, and looked on yourself only as a servant to the Company, from whom only you were to expect the encouragement that was due to diligence and merit.”

[*Unsigned draft.*]

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 225.]

GEORGE VANSITTART to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1774, January 1st, Calcutta.—“Dear Palk, This will be delivered to you by Captain Duff,<sup>(4)</sup> who, I believe, was formerly recommended by you to my brother. The state of his health obliges him to go home, but he means to return to Bengal, and hopes to recover the rank of which he was deprived in '66 in consequence of false representations made against him. He will himself acquaint you with the particulars, and I am sure

(1) Walter Palk, elder brother of Governor Palk, *b.* 1714, *d.* 1801.

(2) Walter Palk, father of Governor Palk, *b.* 1686.

(3) Walter Palk, grandfather of Governor Palk, *b.* 1659, *d.* 1706.

(4) Captain Patrick Duff, Bengal Engineers, had been involved in the combination of officers of 1766, but his supersession by two other captains was unconnected with his action at that time. It was the result of promotions which had been made locally without regard to the seniority determined by the Company's original appointments. (*Bengal Pub. Proceedings*, 14th June, 1773.)

he will do so without the smallest partiality. We have recommended him very strongly to the Court of Directors in our general letter, and I shall be really obliged to you if you will give him all the support in your power. He has every right to the Company's favour which can be derived from long and distinguished services, from being wounded in their service, and from an universal good character both in his military and private capacity. Yours affectionately,

[Holograph, 1½ p., 4to.]

"GEORGE VANSITTART."

[No. 226.]

COLONEL GILBERT IRNSIDE to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esq.

1774, January 15th, The Grove, near Fort William.—"Some time in October last, soon after her arrival, Mrs. Ironside did herself the pleasure to acquaint Mrs. H. Vansittart of the health and safety of her daughter<sup>(1)</sup> after a short and not altogether an unpleasant passage. Mrs. Ironside brought with her a greater share of health than she possessed for some years before, and bids fair, thank heaven! to preserve it.

"About two months ago Mr. Palk was restored to his seat at the Board of Revenue at Patna, which is looked upon to be a certain and considerable fortune in the space of a few years . . .

"From Mr. Hastings I never entertained any very ardent expectations of assistance, and it is probable I shall see his entrance and exit with little benefit either to my fortune or preferment.

"*Dulcis inexpertis* (says our friend Horace) *cultura potentis amici*,

"*Expertus metuit*;

and as I am of this veteran class, I am not likely to succeed at Court. The unlucky line I am in is a material obstacle besides to my independence, exclusive of the mean talents I have *in repetundis*, and in the dexterities of political commerce."

For a sketch of our transactions here, please refer to General Caillaud, to whom I have described them. I have paid to Mr. Samuel Beardmore<sup>(2)</sup> the £100 for which you gave him an order on me in 1772, as he is likely to be long a cadet, and is in need of money. In return he has handed me a bill on you, which will be presented by my attorney, Major Grant.

[Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.]

"GILBERT IRNSIDE."

[No. 227.]

ROBERT PALK, jun., to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1774, January 16th, Patna. "I left Calcutta the 9th November, and arrived at this Factory the 20th; distance about 400 miles . . . Enclosed I send you a draft on Mr.

(1) Emelia Vansittart, jun.

(2) Samuel Beardmore, a Bengal cadet of 1772, did not obtain his ensigncy until 1776. He died three years later.



Kennaway<sup>(1)</sup> for a further sum advanced his sons . . . Captain Skottowe undertook the care of a box for you, which I expect you will say contains a monument of my folly. If it should not prove acceptable at Haldon House, I daresay it will be very much so at Yolland Hill.<sup>(2)</sup> Mrs. Van<sup>(3)</sup> undertook to forward two or three small parcels for me, directed to you, but containing pieces of muslin, shawls, &c., for my friends at Ashburton; but by whom she has sent them I know not . . . In addition to the silk stockings I requested you would cause to be sent out annually, I shall be obliged to you if you will add the following:—2 black and 1 white hat, 6½ in. diameter, 1 pair boots and 6 pairs shoes . . . I shall also be glad of a large alarm watch or small clock of that kind, and a small light royal hunting saddle, red leather and quilted seat, with light furniture for the hind part only . . .

“We have no appearance of any disturbance in the country. Shuja Dowla has paid twenty lacks of the sum he was to give the Company for Corah and Illiabad<sup>(4)</sup> by the Governor’s treaty. Mr. Hastings goes on with great spirit reducing the Company’s expences, civil and military, but I do not think it possible for the revenues to be increased. The attempt of it has been the error of our Government ever since Lord Clive obtained the Dewanny for the Company. . . The whole of the provinces have suffered greatly this last season by a heavy fall of water in the month of September, which overflowed the whole country, destroyed not even [?only] the grain, but carried away many villages and destroyed the cattle . . . Since that time we have had a remarkable drought, so much so as to alarm the natives with the fear of another famine. A stop was put to the exportation of grain . . .”

The Collectors are recalled throughout the provinces, and Revenue or Provincial Councils take their place. I enclose the regulations on the subject, from which you will see that the Company’s servants generally are much restricted as to trade. “This Factory is most materially hurt, for in order to grant an allowance of 3,000 Rs. per month to the Member of administration without taking it immediately from the Company, they have claimed in the Company’s name all the opium produced in this province, hitherto the particular advantage of the gentlemen at this Factory, which will be about equal to the above allowance. This is a severe loss to all us Patna folks, for there is no one article of trade left us but salt and Europe articles, which barely bring us the full interest of our money. This misfortune make[s] me feel the ill luck I was in by my

(1) William Kennaway, of Exeter.

(2) Yolland Hill, by Ashburton, the home of Walter Palk.

(3) Mrs. George Vansittart.

(4) The provinces of Korā and Allahabad, which had been assigned to the titular Emperor Shah Alam for his maintenance, were taken from him when he placed himself in the hands of the Marathas. By the Treaty of Benares they were ceded to the Nawab Vizier.

removal in 1772, for had I staid here to this time, I should in all probability have it in my power to take leave of India, and avoided some misfortunes I have experienced. However, as I am not ambitious, a small matter will satisfy me. I therefore hope it will not be long before I see old England—some time between this and 1780. We hear Lord Pigot is coming out on the *Eagle* with his new plan of government. Also that Lord Clive has been killed by a young nobleman whose name is not mentioned, nor the cause of their disagreement.

“I am concerned to mention the loss of my worthy friend Madge. He died at Madras the 8th November last. He estimated his fortune in his will to be about seven thousand pounds, Mr. Baker writes me, which for the most part he has left to his family.

“My brother is at Masulipatam, and much pains I have taken to correct his errors and advise him to the best of my judgement ; but whether it will be of service to him or not I can’t determine. I have said and done all in my power, and added 4,000 Rs. within these few days to 12,000 which he has already had and, I fear, spent. I have little expectation of seeing my money again. It will, however, be some satisfaction to me if it saves him from ruin. I do not wish you to say any thing to him on this subject. I have already said so much as to make him express himself very unguardedly in his replies to my letters of advice. He is yet young enough to reform.

“Mr. Petre<sup>(1)</sup> has been tried for the murder of Mr. Rochford<sup>(2)</sup> and acquitted, and is already by his countrymen’s influence promoted to a good employ, whilst his seniors in the service are out of employ and in want. He renewed his application to George for permission to marry Emelia. George declared he never would agree to it. He then proposed that George should admit of their waiting till such time as he (Petre) could write to Mrs. H. Van on the subject. To this George did not object, and Petre accordingly addressed Emelia on the subject. She mustered up a little resolution, seeing how disagreeable it was to her uncle, and gave her lover a positive refusal ; so I hope that connexion will never be renewed.

“The young Kennaways are very well. Dick is with George, and makes himself usefull. Jack was left behind at this place when the brigade marched down to the Presidency, very sick ; for some time dangerously so. I have made a stout man of him again by good nursing, and have just sent him down to join his brigade . . .

“General Sir Robert Barker is gone home, and the command of the army has in consequence devolved on Colonel Chapman,<sup>(3)</sup> who is grown old and very unequal to the task. The old gentleman has been remarkably attached to gaming till within

(1) Probably John Petrie of the civil service, who was a Writer in 1773.

(2) George Rochford, appointed Writer in April, 1773, was buried at Calcutta on the 7th September of the same year.

(3) Colonel Charles Chapman held the command from December, 1773, to January, 1774.

these two years, and thereby sunk his estate considerably. His only wish of late has been to accomplish the amount of his loss. It is said a compromise has lately taken place, that the sum of near 80,000 Rs. has been made up to him, that he is to return to Europe with Captain Meers of the *Egmont*, and Colonel Champion to command the army, a very active officer, and in every respect equal to the station . . .”

“ ROBERT PALK.”

“ P.S.—I have received your letter of the 15th March, 1773, by Mr. Ives, and will give him every assistance in my power. I’ve not yet seen him.

[*Holograph*, 8 pp., 4to.]

“ R.P.”

[*Enclosure*. REVENUE REGULATIONS of] 23rd November, 1773

A Duan<sup>(1)</sup> will be appointed to each of the provincial councils, and the Roy Royan<sup>(2)</sup> will serve as Duan to the committee at Calcutta. The provincial councils and the Calcutta committee will take orders from the revenue council, as the Collectors do at present. The parwanas<sup>(3)</sup> of the revenue council to the Duans, and all sanads<sup>(4)</sup> granted by the council, will be signed by the Governor. Collections in districts which are not the seat of provincial councils are to be managed by Naibs.<sup>(5)</sup> The Naibs under each provincial council are to hold courts of Diwani Adalat,<sup>(6)</sup> appeals being allowed to the provincial Sadr Adalat.<sup>(7)</sup> They are to decide all cases not exceeding Rs. 1,000 revenue for Malguzari<sup>(8)</sup> lands, and Rs. 100 for alienated or free lands. For larger sums appeal lies to the Sadr Diwani Adalat.<sup>(9)</sup> Complaints against head farmers, district naibs, zemindars, &c., are to be decided by the provincial councils, appeals being carried to the revenue council at Calcutta.

Military officers are forbidden to detach parties of sepoy's save on military service, or to confine any person not under their orders, or to lend or borrow money, or to have any concern in farms, taluks<sup>(10)</sup> or securities, or to sell any article, or to have dealings with any landholder or revenue officer.

Officers of the Faujdari Adalats<sup>(11)</sup> are forbidden to hold farms or other offices in the mofussil.<sup>(12)</sup> Any complaints against them will be made to the Governor, to be referred by him to the Sadr Nizamat Adalat<sup>(13)</sup> for decision.

(1) *Duan* (*dāwān*), chief revenue officer.

(2) *Roy Royan* (*rairaiyan*), deputy chief revenue officer.

(3) *Parwana* (*parwāna*), written order, permit.

(4) *Sanad*, deed of grant.

(5) *Naib*, deputy.

(6) *Diwani Adalat*, civil court.

(7) *Sadr Adalat*, chief court.

(8) *Malguzari*, assessed for revenue.

(9) *Sadr Diwani Adalat*, chief civil court.

(10) *Taluk*, from *Ar. alaka*, signifies (in Bengal) a tract of proprietary land.

(11) *Faujdāri Adalat*, police or criminal court.

(12) *Mofussil* (*mufassal*), outlying districts.

(13) *Sadr Nizamat Adalat*, chief criminal court.



Members of the superior councils either in Calcutta or the divisions are prohibited from every kind of trade, except in diamonds for remittances, or goods bought in Calcutta for export to foreign markets, or goods brought from foreign markets. In compensation for their lost privileges an allowance of Rs. 3,000 per month will be granted. The export warehouse-keepers at Calcutta and in the divisions are forbidden to trade in articles of the Company's Investment.

No covenanted servant shall make advances for the purchase of grain or other article of prime necessity for natives, such as ghee, fish, oil, jute, straw, betel or tobacco, all which must be purchased for ready money at market prices.

[8 pp., 4to.]

[No. 228.]

FREDERICK GRIFFITHS<sup>(1)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.]

1774, January 20th, Calcutta.—My brother has informed you of my arrival here after a not unpleasant passage, thanks to the gentlemen to whom you kindly recommended me.

"I am happily situated in the family of Mr. Hastings, whom I am already under obligations to. When my brother<sup>(2)</sup> presented me to him, he generously desired me to consider myself in his family while I remained in Calcutta. Shortly after, I was ordered to join the corps of cadets, a great distance up the country. My brother, with the advice of some military gentlemen, his acquaintance, mentioned to Mr. Hastings his wish that I should have leave to remain some time longer at Calcutta . . . He agreed, and would employ me to assist him, as he had seen some of my writing. This he has since done . . ."

"FREDERICK GRIFFITHS."

[Holograph, 1½ p., flscp.]

[No. 229.]

REYNO[LD] ADAMS to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Park Place, St. James's.

1774, February 2nd, Fort St. George.—I am sending you a pipe of old madcira, which I ask you to accept. "As I have no thoughts at present of leaving this country, and as my employ will be ruined if Mr. Baker should have the watering of the ships, I have thought of a thing which is very advantageous if it can be obtained, and which I think may be done if you will be pleased to favor me with your assistance. It is to make a tender to the Court of Directors for the Bettle and Tobacco farm and Bang<sup>(3)</sup> leaves (as they always go together)

(1) Frederick Griffiths, one of the two sons (No. 50, p. 76) of the Rev. Charles Griffiths, appears to be identical with William Griffiths (No. 163, p. 184, and No. 221, p. 226). His name was probably Frederick William.

(2) Henry Griffiths.

(3) *Bang*, *bhang*, from Sansk. *bhanga*, hemp: the leaves of *Cannabis indica*, from which a narcotic is derived.

as soon as the present cowl expires, which will be about two years hence. It was granted to the present renter for Pags. 28,000 per annum, and I mean that my tender for the next term shall be Pags. 30,000, and to give Soucar or other security to the Governor and Council . . and I will supply the publick in such beattle, tobacco and bang leaves as other renters has done before me . . .”

It has not been customary, it is true, to let the farm to a European, but this is probably because no European has hitherto tendered. I look to you for your kind assistance, and I have written to Mr. Boehm for his.

“REYNO. ADAMS.”

[*Holograph, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.*]

[*Duplicate, 2 pp., flscp. Wax seal with arms and initials “R.A.”*]

[No. 230.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1774, February 4th, Fort St. George.—Since December last the French at Pondicherry have been employing 2,000 coolies on the fortifications on the west side of the town, under the direction of their engincer, M. Beausset. Since M. Foucault’s arrival in October the Council has not met, but in December a council of justice was formed, consisting of M. Law, M. Foucault and four others. The military force now comprises about 1,000 Europeans, 600 sepoys, lascars and coffrees, and about 150 peons.

It is reported from Muscat that the Company’s charter is renewed to 1787, and that Bengal is to become a King’s settlement, but nothing is said about the Coast. We shall soon receive definite advices. Mr. Cotsford<sup>(1)</sup> and Mr. Hay<sup>(2)</sup> are leaving for England.

“Rackobah, the Chief of the Morattas, with about 70 or eighty thousand horses, came near Hydrabad and settled matters with Nizam Ally Cawn, and is arrived at Seerpoor<sup>(3)</sup> with the said force to concert measures with Hyder Ally; and as soon as this is done ’tis reported that he intends marching with his whole force towards the Carnatick. It is reported that his demand of the Nabob is chiefly to put the King of Tanjore in possession of his territorys, and the delivering up of the Marawars’ country back to them, Arrany<sup>(4)</sup> country, and the tribute for several years past due to them; and threatens otherwise to remain a long time in these parts and to destroy and ruin the country. The Nabob, we are appre-

(1) Edward Cotsford. *Vide* No. 183, p. 199, note 1.

(2) James Hay, Paymaster at Trichinopoly, a civil servant of 1756.

(3) Seerpoor. Chokappa probably means Sirpi, otherwise called Sira, in Mysore. *Cf.* No. 232, p. 237.

(4) Arrany (Arni). The Marathas had ruled this territory for about thirty years in the seventeenth century, and still laid claim to it.

hensive, will not incline to deliver up any of those countrys, but endeavors to make up matters with money . . .

“Mr. Benfield<sup>(1)</sup> is banker and soukar to his Highness the Nabob: all drafts and bills for the payment of the kists<sup>(2)</sup> to the Company are sent to him, and he discharges it . . .”

“CHOCAPAH.”

[*Autograph, 2 pp., demy.*]

[No. 231.]

JOHN D’FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1774, February 6th, Fort St. George. (Duplicate). “The Tenively business don’t go on well. The Renter at first said he had no Star pagodas. When we agreed to take Porto Novos he would not pay, he said, on Captain Cooke’s receipt, but must have mine, as the Tanaka<sup>(3)</sup> run[s] in my name. I sent Captain Cooke my receipts for the first three payments. When he presented them to the Renter, he said he had no pagodas, but offered to pay in chacram<sup>(4)</sup> or fanams. These fanams anywhere out of that country is not worth three quarters of the money, and to exchange them there in Porto Novo pagodas or Bombay rupees would take up a very long time. I applied to Buckunjee’s House,<sup>(5)</sup> and offered them to discount five per cent. if they would give me bills. They said they had thirty thousand of those fanams lying there to be exchanged. I considered, however, if I refused taking the fanams it might furnish the Nabob with a pretext to say that I refused, for the sake of a trifle, taking the money when offered; and the Nabob sending to tell me he would make good the difference, I wrote away to Captain Cooke to receive even the fanams . . . I assure you, Sir, I do every thing in my power, but you are too sensible that it is an affair that requires influence, and I am but a private person . . .”

“JOHN D’FRIES.”

[*Autograph, 2 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 232.]

MUDOO KISTNA to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1774, February 12th, Fort St. George.—“The Nabob resides at Chepauck as usual; and as he had long design upon Tonjore, marched his troops jointly with the English forces against it in the beginning of August, and took that Fort and the country on the 19th of September last. The Rajah and his ministers were made prisoners and their effects seized, and they still

(1) Paul Benfield. *Vide* No. 78, p. 109, note 1.

(2) *Kist*, instalment of land revenue.

(3) *Tanaka*. *Vide* No. 252, p. 248, note 2.

(4) *Chacram*, from Tam. *chakram*, a wheel; silver coin formerly widely current in Southern India. The gold pagoda was equivalent to 22½ Tanjore silver *chakram*. At the present day 28½ Travancore *chakram* go to the rupee.

(5) A noted firm of native bankers.



remain confined in the Fort. The Nabob has placed his own garrison in the said Fort : none of the Company's troops are there. The Company's garrison only remains in the Vellum Fort as usual. The Dutch raised some disputes about certain districts of the Tonjore country, which at length were settled between them and the Nabob, who has an entire possession and sole management of the Tonjore country and the Fort at present.

“Narain Raw,<sup>(1)</sup> General of the Maratters, being murdered, his uncle Ragonada Raw succeeded in his room, and took the field with his army, and after having made up the difference which subsisted between him and Nizam Ally Cawn, crossed the river Kishna and [is] now steering, as it is said, towards Serah in the Balagat<sup>(2)</sup>; and it is talked that after he settles with Hyder he will think of marching to the Pain Gaut Carnatick to receive his Chout and to get the Tonjore country restored to the Rajah if possible. But our Nabob is not unmindful of his own affairs, for he has employed people to negotiate with the said Ragonada Raw, but what success he will meet with none but God can tell. At present the country is very much alarmed of the Marattas . . .”

[*Autograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

“MUDOO KISTNA.”

[No. 233.]

ROBERT PALK, jun., to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., London.

1774, February 23rd, Patna.—I have unfavourable accounts of our remittance by way of China. Mr. Price could not sell the opium at a profit owing to its poor quality. I shall be lucky if I recover the principal from him. The cost of insurance will fall on me, you and the Adams sisters, unless you think I ought to bear it all. Price ought to pay the insurance, but his affairs are much involved. At the outset I was unwilling to engage with him, but I was overruled by George Vansittart. He and I stand to lose Rs. 36,000. We began a lawsuit, but George has relinquished his claim on Price owing to the latter's misfortunes, and wants me to do likewise. I do not now know of any good method of remitting to England. Unless you can procure money by bills on me, I must send home gold mohurs.

“It is reported that the Marattas have settled all their own disputes, and are now about to take the field; that a body is to march for Delly and another for Arcot. We are under no apprehension of them this way. Shuja Dowla is fighting with the Jauts,<sup>(3)</sup> and is now before the fort of Agra, and so is Nudjuff Cawn<sup>(4)</sup> with the King's troops, but they cannot take it. Shuja has applied for one of our brigades to assist him,

(1) Narāyan Rao, fifth Peshwa, was murdered in 1773 at the instigation of his uncle Raghunath Rao, commonly known as Raghoba.

(2) The Bālagāt. *Vide* No. 163, p. 183, note 1.

(3) The Jāts, who occupied territory to the westward of the Rohillas, had taken Agra in 1773.

(4) Najaf Khan, the Emperor's general.

and it is now near Banaras marching up. Whether the Governor and Council will permit our troops to march beyond Shuja Dowla's dominions I can't say, but I fancy it's his wish that they shall be employed to reduce all that country.

"I believe I have not mentioned some views of Patna and Dinapore cantonments taken by a black man, which I left in Calcutta to be sent you. They are pretty well done. Miss Van was to send them to you by Captain Skottowe . . ."

"ROBERT PALK."

"P.S.—I've just heard that Agra was to be given up to Nudjuff Cawn for the King about the 28th of this month. R.P."

[*Holograph, 5½ pp., 4to. Wax seal inscribed "Robert Palk" in Persian characters.*]

[No. 234.]

ROBERT PALK, jun., to R[OBERT] PALK, Esqr.

1774, March 11th, Patna.—I enclose for your information copies of correspondence between George Vansittart and myself about the scheme of remittance by way of China. I consider that Mr. Price has not behaved well in the matter.

"George writes me the Council are going to pay off all the Company's bonds granted before 1769, and that in future no more than 5 per cent. interest will be allowed on borrowed money. Every charge in the Civil department is decreased to the utmost: they are now beginning with the Military. A saving of some lacks is talked of only in the article of lascars stationed with the artillery and at subordinate Factories. A post is to be established all over the country the first of next month, that is to say, from that time all persons are to pay at the rate of 2 annas per hundred miles for a single letter.<sup>(1)</sup> Hitherto the Dawks<sup>(2)</sup> have been an annual charge of above 2 lacks of rupees to the Company. It is now expected that the Company will gain by them. At this rate I imagine in 2 or 3 years the whole of the Company's debt in Bengal may be cleared from the savings made during Mr. Hastings's government.

"I hear the Marattas have given some alarm at Madras, although they have not entered the Carnatic, nor perhaps intend to. Nothing has been done above since the taking of Agra. Our troops are marching on towards Shuja's frontiers, and it's imagined will be quartered there till the rains. The settlement Mr. H. has made with Shuja Doula for paying the Company's troops when in his country doth not meet with the approbation of people in general. It is called hiring the troops to the country Powers."

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

"ROBERT PALK."

(1) A 'single' letter was one not exceeding 2½ tolas in weight.

(2) *Dawk* (*dāk*), post, transport by relays of men or horses.

[*Enclosures.* Copies of five letters which had passed between Robert Palk, jun., and George Vansittart relative to their China scheme of remittance.]

[No. 235.]

MUDOO KISTNA to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1774, March 15th, Fort St. George.—“ It pleased God to put an end to the alarm of the Maratas, for Narainraw’s relations at Poona, having joined together, raised an army by concurrence of Narainraw’s mother and widow, and are upon a scheme to attack Ragonadaraw and to put an end to his authority. Which news coming to Ragonadaraw while he was upon his march to the Balagat country, he thought it dangerous to stay there any longer, and so he returned on a sudden to his own country, by which means the country in these parts is cleared from the apprehensions of the Marata troubles at present.

“ As to the Nabob, he keeps his Court at Chepauck, and every thing goes very well with him according to his satisfaction. He seems to be firmly settled in his new acquired province of Tonjore. The Raja of the said place, with his family, is still kept prisoner in the Fort of Tonjore, and whose hopes are entirely vanquished at present by reason of the return of the Marata army as aforesaid . . .”

“ MUDOO KISTNA.”

[*Autograph, 1 p., flsep.*]

[No. 236.]

J. PRICE to Messrs. FITZ OWEN JONES and JAMES POTTER, Jerusalem Coffee House,<sup>(1)</sup> London.

1774, March 18th, Calcutta.—In my letter of the 6th instant I stated that I had settled with Mr. Vansittart and Mr. John Call as I did with Dacre & Harris, except that the insurance premium paid by Mr. Call on his venture of Arcot Rs. 25,000 on the *Albion* to China is to be repaid by you on my account.

I have since arranged with Mr. Palk as with Mr. Vansittart. Of the Arcot Rs. 50,000 lent by the former, Current Rs. 27,000 belonged to his uncle Governor Palk, and Current Rs. 7,135 to the estate of Captain Adams the Engineer.<sup>(2)</sup> I have engaged to meet the insurance premium on both these sums, and I request you to pay it to the agent of either Mr. Palk or Mr. Vansittart.

“ J. PRICE.”

[*Autograph, 2 pp., flsep.*]

[*Endorsed in the hand of Governor Palk*] “ Captain Price to Fitz Owen Jones and James Potter, Esqrs. to repay the insurance made by R. Palk on the *Albion* to Canton on his

(1) The Jerusalem Coffee House is mentioned in *An Essay on Friendship* published in 1725.

(2) *Vide* No. 211, p. 220, note 1.



account and Capt. Adams', vizt. Robert Palk, Esqr., Current Rs. 27,000; Adams, C. Rs. 7134 15a. Insured April, 1773, at 5 guineas per 100*l*."

[No. 237.]

[ROBERT] PALK to H.H. the NAWAB OF THE CARNATIC.

N.D. [1774, *cir.* March.] "To his Highness the Nabob of the Carnateck Mr. Palk always most fervently wishes an increase of glory and happiness.

"The gentlemen who are to join Mr. Hastings at Bengal and compose the new Government there now proceed on their voyage, and propose to pay their compliments to your Hig[h]ness on their way. They come with the best intentions to give their best assistance for preserving peace and prosperity over all India, and from them you will learn the state of affairs in Europe and who is most likely to receive the Government from Mr. Wynch. I hope and believe it will be an appointment to your satisfaction. Colonel Charles Campbell<sup>(1)</sup> is endeavouring to return to the command of the troops, and as I find he will be very agreeable to you, he shall have all the assistance in my power. General Lawrence enjoins me to make you his most grateful acknowledgments and, though his memory in other matters begins to fail him, he shall never forget your singular kindness to him. I still endeavor to keep up his spirits and make his life comfortable as formerly, and we often recount the many happy days we have passed with your Highness in the field, in garrison and at the Mount."

[*Holograph draft, unsigned, 1½ p., 4to.*]

[No. 238.]

STEPHEN SULIVAN to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Park Place, St. James's.

1774, April 3rd, 11, Paper Buildings, Temple.—"Dear Sir, Ever since I last troubled you for money my father's circumstances (no secret I dare say to you) barely enable him to supply me with what is necessary. I am sure that I as a son cannot feel more than you as a friend. You have uniformly continued your regard to him, and as for me, you have laid me under the *greatest* of all obligations. I protest to you, Mr. Palk, that I have no other resource but in your generosity, and therefore I venture to request two or three hundred pounds if you can possibly spare it. The tide is against my poor father in every thing. I see not even a glimmering of chance at the election, and my own prospects here are so gloomy that the East must be my lot, let me go out how I will. I only wish for an opportunity to convince you of my honor and gratitude; but till that opportunity offers, accept, I entreat, the sincerest sentiments

(1) *Vide* No. 41, p. 63, note 4.

of affection and esteem from, dear Sir, your most faithful and obliged servant,

“STEPHEN SULIVAN.”

[P.S.] “I earnestly beg an answer from you to-morrow morning.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 239.]

STEPHEN SULIVAN to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr., Park Place.

N.D. [1774, April.]—“My dear Sir, After my last letter it looks importunate to write any more; but as I have only one guinea, if you could possibly procure me the money and send it me some time this day, you will essentially oblige your ever affectionate

“STEPHEN SULIVAN.”

[P.S.] “If my servant should happen to be out, your servant can drop the letter, and it will be very safe.”

[*Holograph*,  $\frac{1}{2}$  p., 4to. *Wax seal, device a deer.*]

[No. 240.]

STEPHEN SULIVAN to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Park Place.

N.D. [1774, April.] Wednesday evening. Paper Buildings, Temple.—“Dear Sir, I am infinitely obliged to you for your kind letter, and though I can with truth say I would not have troubled you if a real necessity had not constrained me, I must and ought to wait till it perfectly suits you. When it does, I have not a doubt but you will obligingly keep me in your remembrance. I am happy always to wait on you, and I think myself fortunate in your friendship, which I shall endeavour through life to retain; but to-morrow I am forced to be out very early to do all that is in my power by soliciting at the door of every Proprietor. The very first leisure moment I can find I will dedicate to you, to thank you for those constant and steady proofs of regard with which you have always distinguished, dear Sir, your most affectionate friend and servant,

“STEPHEN SULIVAN.”

[*Holograph*, 1p., 4to. *Wax seal, device a deer.*]

[No. 241.]

1774, August 1st, Fort St. George.—Statement of Account of ROBERT PALK with the Estate of HENRY VANSITTART. Signed by J. M. Stone, George Purnell, Moses de Castro, and Pelling & de Fries.

[2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 242.]

LAU[RENCE] SULIVAN to [ROBERT PALK].

1774, August 23rd, Queen Square.—“My dear Sir, As I wished to communicate your letter to my son, who returned but

yesterday from the country, it has not been in my power to give an earlier answer.

"The people of Ashburton are undoubtedly bound to you by the powerful ties of gratitude and affection as well as of interest, and therefore their disposition to so generous a benefactor could hardly be called in question. And the inference I must draw is that in pressing Mr. Palk to be their Member they make an absolute rejection of Mr. Sullivan, because it seems to be an agreed point that they can carry but one Member. The preference is natural. At the same time I have the pleasure to believe that, with two exceptions only (yourself and Mr. Dunning)<sup>(1)</sup> the freeholders of Ashburton would continue heartily attached to me.

"When I ventured to encourage Stee<sup>(2)</sup> with hopes of succeeding me, it was from a riveted (but mistaken) opinion I had imbibed that Ashburton was the last borough that you or Mr. Dunning would meddle with; but the moment I found that you inclined to stand for this place, I did then, as I do now, resign the whole to your determination, desiring that you will direct me in the steps most proper to be taken to do you honour with the freeholders on my resignation.

"From public motives alone I sought Parliament, but so little satisfaction have I experienced within those walls that, had I *now* my *then* independance, no temptation upon earth should have carried me thither again. But the melancholly change makes it (if possible) necessary to the future prospects of my family that either I or my son should be in the Senate. If he happily succeeds any where, and I should in some degree recover my India line, every wished for purpose will be answered; but if the whole ends (not unusual to me) in building castles, I shall still trust 'that whatever is, is best.'

"It was more my misfortune than fault that I did not meet Mr. Dunning. I went out to Putney with a full intention to lay open to him every circumstance, and determined to adopt *such advice* as such an *inestimable friend* should give; but when I found those were to dine with us whose smiles had always attended my better days, I wanted that fortitude which has seldom failed me, and therefore only said to our friend at parting that I should call upon him in Town to mention some material matters. I did so three times. My son also called, but we could not meet.

"I have the pleasure to tell you that Mr. Maclean<sup>(3)</sup> goes on well, and will certainly wind up honourably. He has already made a beginning, and sends me by the *Resolution* money to buy in Mr. Dunning's India Stock, which will so far take off a load from Van's estate and me. If I can return to the Direction and keep him upon his legs, a very large debt will be secured.

(1) John Dunning. *Vide* No. 105, p. 135, note 4.

(2) Stephen Sullivan.

(3) Colonel Lauchlan Maclean. *Vide* No. 169, p. 189, note 2.



"I am unalterably, my dear Sir, your most affectionate and obliged servant,

"LAU. SULIVAN."

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 243.]

LAU[RENCE] SULIVAN to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Haldon House, near Exeter.

1774, September 15th, Queen Square.—"My dear Sir, Except my kindest acknowledgements, I shall wave for the present the subject of your last letter.

"Mr. Boyd<sup>(1)</sup> being uneasy at the security given by Sir George Colebrooke,<sup>(2)</sup> and, if good, by no means clear when the money will be paid, he has been offered, and I understand will accept in lieu of this security a mortgage on Sir George's Granada Estate, the nett value 50,000*l.* at six per cent. per annum for six years certain, and two reputable merchants enter into bonds to pay the interest annually in England. Sir George proposes to borrow 25,000*l.* on this estate, or he will exchange the Allum (our) securitys to that amount. Purling,<sup>(3)</sup> I hear, means to take the mortgage for his, which with Boyd's will be about 20,000*l.* If you should likewise think this more eligible, give me a line and this shall be reserved, as I have desired Sir George to wait until I have an answer.

"I am ever, my dear friend, yours most affectionately,

"LAU. SULIVAN."

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to. Wax seal with arms, defaced.*]

[No. 244.]

ROB[ER]T PALK to LAURENCE SULIVAN, Esqr., M.P., Queen Square, Ormond Street.

1774, September 21st, Haldon House.—"My dear Sir, I have your favor of the 15th. Sir George is very good in making me the kind offer of a Grenada security, but as I cannot wait six years for the money, it will not suit me. He has used me very unhandsomely. The Stock which I lent to him and Mr. Motteux,<sup>(4)</sup> 4,000*l.*, was bought for the purpose at 223½, and was to have been returned in May 1772. But when Mr. Boehm<sup>(5)</sup> demanded it, you desired it might remain sometime longer; so that on the latter I lost 75 per cent., and on Sir George's I find I am in danger of losing the whole. At his desire it was transferred the 8th October, 1771, to 4 names, and I was charged with the transfers. It was to have been delivered back the May following; but antecedent to that, on the 11th April, 1772,

(1) John Boyd. *Vide* No. 97, p. 127, note 3.

(2) Sir George Colebrooke. *Vide* No. 166, p. 186, note 1.

(3) John Purling. *Vide* No. 98, p. 129, note 1.

(4) John Motteux. *Vide* No. 97, p. 127, note 1.

(5) Edmund Boehm. *Vide* No. 97, p. 127, note 2.

it was transferred into one name and sold off, he, who was in the secret, knowing when to sell for his own advantage what did not belong to him; and to make amends he gives me an Allum security of £3,000 for what he disposed of *for his own advantage* at about 4,400. This is the true state of the case. I never asked Sir George but one favor, my nephew's reinstatement, and you know how much I was hurt upon that occasion.

"I hope, however, the Allum security is ample and sufficient. Mr. Smith<sup>(1)</sup> told me it was worth double the sum it stood for, and if Mr. Purling's and Boyd's assignments are discharged from it, I suppose it is still better. Sir George indeed wrote me at that time that this security was given us out of kindness, because our demands would certainly be liquidated in a 12 month; and I still hope that we shall have a good prospect of receiving our ballances.

"I am ever, my dear Sir, yours most affectionately,

"ROBT. PALK."

[*Holograph, 1¾ p., 4to. Wax seal with the Palk arms.*]

[No. 245.]

NAWAB WALAJAH to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1774, September 24th, Chepauck House, near Madras.—"His Highness Nawab Waulaujah, Ummeer ul Hind, Omdaht ul Mulk, Ausuph ud Dowla, Anwar ul dee[n] Cawn Bahauder, Munsoor Jung, Sepoy Salaar, Subadar of Arcot and the Carnatick, to Robert Palk, Esqr.

"I have already written to you many friendly letters, and have been much rejoiced to hear you are happy, as you are my old friend. I have heretofore made some representations to the Gentlemen in England, but as I have not hitherto learnt that anything has been done to give me satisfaction, I have sent Colonel Maclean<sup>(2)</sup> and Mr. James Johnson<sup>(3)</sup> to England. From them all matters may be fully understood. Your friendship for me is of long standing, and I am always thankful for it. I hope the favor of your assistance will not be wanting to settle my affairs, and my obligations will be encreased.

"What can I say more?"

[*Autograph cipher, 1½ p., 4to.*]

[No. 246.]

LAU[RENCE] SULIVAN to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Haldon House.

1774, September 30th, Queen Square.—"My dear Friend, By the time this reaches you we are no longer Members of Parliament, for I am this moment assured, indeed I know it, that a proclamation for its dissolution comes out to morrow, and orders are issued to the Post Office to stop franking on Monday.

(1) Probably Nathaniel Smith. Cf. No. 248, p. 245, note 6.

(2) Vide No. 169, p. 189, note 2.

(3) Vide No. 28, p. 45, note 7.

“ However convenient it may be to me to have a seat in the next Parliament, I cannot bear the thought of keeping you from Ashburton, and therefore beg that you will instantly secure yourself there. And pray assure our friends the freeholders that I shall ever retain a grateful remembrance of their generous attachment, and that if ever I have power again to oblige individuals, I shall consider my self as much belonging to them as if [I] was still their Member, and I request Mr. Dunning, senr.,<sup>(1)</sup> the Winsors, Mr. Abraham<sup>(2)</sup> and Mr. Tripe<sup>(3)</sup> may in particular know these my sentiments.

“ I am ever, my dear Sir, your most affectionate and obedient servant,

“ LAU. SULIVAN.”

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to. Wax seal with arms.*]

[No. 247.]

THO[MA]S SHORT to R[OBERT] PALK, Esqr.

1774, November 24th, Calcutta.—Having arrived here, I beg to thank you for your kind recommendations to Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Palk. The former has rendered me much assistance; the latter is away at Dacca.

“ T. SHORT.”

[P.S.] “ I was sorry to hear of the death of Major Madge at Madras, to whom you had favored me with a letter.”

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to.*]

[No. 248.]

L[AURENCE] SULIVAN to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Park Place.

1775, February 12th, Queen Square.—“ My dear Sir, I hope you have seen Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Van, and have pressed them to obtain Mr. Boddam’s<sup>(4)</sup> solemn promise that he will vote for me to be upon the House list, as no time is to be lost. Yesterday a friend informed me that the Bochms have great influence with Boddam. Pray speak to them. You have supported Captain Hall<sup>(5)</sup> and Nath. Smith.<sup>(6)</sup> I wish you would ask them the same favour. They have been applied to by several, and they will not chuse to disoblige many Proprietors.

(1) John Dunning, senr., whose son of the same name was created Lord Ashburton. The family homestead was a small farm about a mile south of Ashburton on the road to Pridhamsleigh.

(2) Robert Abraham, of Gurrington, Ashburton, a first cousin of Robert Palk.

(3) Dr. Tripe, of Ashburton, whose son Nicholas married Grace Palk, niece of Robert Palk, senr.

(4) Charles Boddam, then a Director and formerly a Madras civil servant, married in 1754 Frances Morse, sister of Mrs. Henry Vansittart.

(5) Richard Hall, who commanded the Indiaman *Worcester* for ten years from 1761, was a Director from 1773 to 1789.

(6) Nathaniel Smith was a Director from 1774 to 1795. He formerly commanded the *Lord Camden*. Cf. No. 10, p. 14.



"I have spoke to Mr. Manship<sup>(1)</sup> and others, and still hold the same clear opinion that our friend will be foiled.

"I am, my dear Sir, ever yours,

"L. SULIVAN."

[*Holograph, 1p., 4to.*]

[No. 249.]

FREDERICK GRIFFITHS to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Park Place, St. James's.

1775, February 24th. Camp, Mydagaut.—I set out on the 21st October last to join my Cadet corps, and reached camp on the 8th February. "My pay and batta, with a little oeconomy, will allow me to keep a small table and to save fifty rupees a month." My brother Harry has doubtless written to you ere this.

"FREDERICK GRIFFITHS."

[*Holograph, 1½ p., 4to. Wax seal, device a head.*]

[No. 250.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1775, July 2nd, Fort St. George.—I informed you in my letter of the 10th February that "his Highness the Nabob endeavoured to put his second son Madar ul Mulk<sup>(2)</sup> head of Tanjore Fort, and of his intention to give up that country to him in time; for which the Governor, Mr. Dawson,<sup>(3)</sup> Mr. Brooke,<sup>(4)</sup> Mr. Palmer,<sup>(5)</sup> Mr. Jourdan<sup>(6)</sup> and Mr. Mackay<sup>(7)</sup> would not give their consent, thinking that Madar ul Mulk being not such a person as his Highness's elder son,<sup>(8)</sup> and very probably he may in time breed a dispute with his brothers: if it happen so, and his having so large countrys in his hands, he may afterwards not regard the English, and may join with other European forces and may create troubles. General Smith, Mr. Stone<sup>(9)</sup> and Mr. Johnson<sup>(10)</sup> are inclined to consent to it, and that he may go to Tanjore. For which reason the Governour and Council at present are in two partys. We hear that this matter are referred to the Supreme Council at Bengall.

"We hear that there are great disputes at Bengall between Mr. Hastings and General Clavering, which you will come to understand better by the publick advices from Bengall.

(1) John Manship. *Vide* No. 97, p. 127, note 5.

(2) Amir-ul-Umarā.

(3) George Dawson, who joined the civil service in 1751, was, like Pybus, one of Clive's little band of volunteer officers defending Arcot in the same year. He was in Council in 1768, and retired in 1776.

(4) Henry Brooke. *Vide* No. 31, p. 51, note 2.

(5) Archdale Palmer joined as a Writer in 1755. He entered Council twenty years later, and sided with the Majority against Lord Pigot.

(6) Francis Jourdan. *Vide* No. 23, p. 54, note 1.

(7) George Mackay. *Vide* No. 13, p. 17, note 3.

(8) Umdat-ud-Umarā.

(9) John Maxwell Stone. *Vide* No. 29, p. 46, note 4.

(10) Samuel Johnson. *Vide* No. 194, p. 210, note 3.

"We have had two Coast and China ships and two Coast and Bay ships arrived from England the 22nd of last month : on one of these ships Sir Robert Fletcher and his wife arrived here, and no news of the appointment of any gentleman at home for the Government of Madras, but the people imagine that Lord Pigot will, however, come out to this place . . .

"The Morattas are very troublesome at Bombay, and lately I hear that our Government there met with great loss of a detachment of 170 Europeans and 700 seapoys being cut off ; and also by a hard gale of wind at Surat nine large ships and about 40 boats were destroyed with goods and merchandizes . .

"Mr. Mackay has sold his great house in the Fort to his Highness the Nabob for 25,000 pagodas, and Messrs. Pelling<sup>(1)</sup> & de Fries sold Mr. Vansittart's house, that Mr. Morse lived in, to his Highness also for thirty thousand pagodas . . .

"The Governour and Council affixed an advertizement at the gates that the Parliament's direction to all the gentlemen either civil or military in this place and at the Subordinates [is], from the 1st August, 1774, not to receive any presents, money or any thing else, either by themselves or by their servants or people for their benefit, from the Indian princes, powers, ministers, agents, or from the renters and farmers ; and if any gentleman receive any such thing and the same be discovered, that they will be obliged to pay double the same they received, one half of which to be for the Company's benefit, and the other half to the informer ; and that those gentlemen shall be sent home immediately unless they give a sufficient security to embark within twelve months. And if this is the case, the Madrass gentlemen in the Company's service will find great difficulty in getting a fortune after they disburse their own private expences, unless the Company makes them a handsome gratuity . . .

"The Morattas' Admiral ship was blown up on the Malabar coast in an engagement with some of our fighting ships, and since which their fleet did not appear on that coast ; but we don't know what trouble they may give us hereafter, since the loss of so many of our ships in the storm at Surat . . . "

"CHOCAPAH."

[*Autograph, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  p., demy. Duplicate.*]

(1) Thomas Pelling was born in India in 1723, and is believed to have been the son of Thomas Pelling, sen., Court Sergeant at Madras, who died in 1735. The younger Thomas was in correspondence with Orme from 1761 to 1763, but his name does not appear in the list of free merchants until 1775, when he is described as 'native,' i.e., country-born. He joined John d'Fries in the firm of Pelling & de Fries, afterwards De Castro, Pelling & de Fries. Pelling had several daughters, of whom Elizabeth married in 1766 Captain Thomas Gibson ; Ann married 1st Captain Thomas Oats and 2nd Colonel Ross Lang ; Mary married in 1772 Cotton Bowerbank Dent, M.C.S. ; Catharine married in 1777 Thomas Palk, M.C.S., and Sophia married in 1783 Dr. Job Bulman.

[No. 251.]

JAMES HODGES<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., St. James's Place, London.

1775, July 4th, Fort St. George.—Since I last wrote to you in 1772, I have been obliged through illness to make a second voyage to China. I returned cured, and my health for the last eighteen months has been better than at any time during the past five years. The interest of my bond shall be duly discharged, but I am not yet able to refund the principal. I have lately been nominated to a seat in the Council at Masulipatam, where I hope to be able to repay to your nephew some of the many kindnesses I have received from you.

“JAMES HODGES.”

[*Holograph, 1½ p., 4to. Wax seal, defaced.*]

[No. 252.]

JOHN D'FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1775, July 4th, Madras.—“We have now only the amount of the ruby ring and the house to receive from the Nabob, which I make no doubt, if the country continues peaceable, we shall be able to do in the limited time, having obtained Tuncaws<sup>(2)</sup> for the whole of the amount on the Wongole<sup>(3)</sup> country, which from its nearness is a convenient assignment” . . . We shall remit through Mr. George Vansittart. The amount due by Mr. George Smith to the estate of Mr. Vansittart is about £400. “Mrs. Vansittart’s character is vastly raised by her sufferings. Her misfortune has rendered her mind great. I hope she will hereafter enjoy the satisfaction of seeing her children imitating their virtuous parents. Harry is very promising. Mrs. Parry<sup>(4)</sup> is happy in her marriage . . .

“Bengal is over run with informers’ accusations against each other. Joe Fowke<sup>(5)</sup> stands foremost in this honorable list. Nuncomar was to be tried for perjury and forgery. The sessions at Calcutta begun the 3rd of last month. Our last advices from there is of the 12th. They continued setting still and were upon Nuncomar’s cause. A treaty was concluded

(1) James Hodges, a civil servant of 1764, was Mayor of Madras in 1775. Most of his subsequent term of service was spent at Masulipatam.

(2) *Tuncaw*, from Pers. *tankhwāh*, a draft for money: an assignment of future revenue.

(3) Ongole, a town and taluq in the Guntūr District.

(4) Emelia, daughter of Henry Vansittart, married on the 21st March, 1774, Edward Parry, a Bengal civil servant of 1767. He became a Director of the Company in 1800.

(5) Joseph Fowke, son of Randall Fowke of the Madras civil service, was himself a Writer at Fort St. George as early as 1736. He was present at the capture of Madras in 1746, and in common with other civil servants was allowed to go to Fort St. David. There he remained unemployed until 1750, when he was appointed a member of Saunders’ Council. It is uncertain when he left the service, but in 1775 he was a free merchant in Bengal with his son Francis. He associated with Nandkumar, and was bitterly hostile to Hastings. The latter and Barwell prosecuted both father and son for conspiring with Nandkumar to procure false accusations against them. In 1778 Joseph Fowke was entertained as a Senior Merchant in consideration of his “long and faithful services.”



with Sujah Dowlat's son, who has ceded to the Company Bulwansing's<sup>(1)</sup> country, reckoned worth 35 lacks of rupees per annum.

"The Gentlemen of Bombay entered in a war with the Morattas for the conquest of Salsett. They are joined by Ragopah, and have to contend with the Ministerial Party, who, by having the treasure and the army for them, have all the power, and our army has met with a considerable loss in an engagement with the enemy in Cambay.

"Here, a great division in Council. The majority in bad terms with the Nabob. It was a great oversight the suffering the Nabob to garrison Tanjore, and may be productive of disagreeable altercations. Already, I am told, there have been many warm and many illiberal minutes entered on record. The minority is General Smith, Messrs. Johnson and Stone . . ."

[*Autograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

"JOHN D'FRIES."

[No. 253.]

GEORGE BAKER to THOMAS PALK.

1775, July 8th, Fort St. George.—I learn from your uncle, Robert Palk, Esqr., that Major Madge's children have arrived in England. Your uncle writes that the deceased Major had in his hands the effects of Lieut. Thomas Palk and Ensign John Palk. The Ensign's estate is Arcot Rs. 449 1a. 1p., while the balance due on that of the Lieutenant is Pags. 1,718 14f. 72c., and Mr. Palk asks me to recover the latter amount. I replied that I would refer the matter to you as surviving administrator. The case appears to me to stand thus :—To the two estates there is due from Major Madge's estate Pags. 1,361 26f. 72c., and from you Pags. 356 24f. 0c., total, Star pagodas 1,718 14f. 72c. According to a letter from the Major to your uncle this sum is due to Lieut. Thomas Palk's estate alone, while A.Rs. 449 1a. 1p. in addition belongs to that of Ensign John Palk. But in his statement of account Major Madge represents the former sum as the total due to both estates, and he makes no mention of the smaller figure. I shall be glad if you can explain the discrepancy. Please send me the money you hold belonging to your kinsmen's estates, so that I may remit it to your uncle.

"GEORGE BAKER."

[*Autograph*, 5 pp., flsep. Endorsed in Robert Palk's hand.]

"Cornish Palks, 8th July, 1775, Capt. Baker to Tom Palk."

[*This certified copy probably formed an enclosure of No. 257.*]

[No. 254.]

THOMAS PALK to GEORGE BAKER.

1775, August 12th, Maz[ulipata]m.—Although only nominally one of Lieut. Thomas Palk's executors, I feel bound to give you

(1) Tributary Raja of Benares.

all the information I can. My own debt to the estate, S. Pags. 315 16f. 0c., arose in this way :—In 1772, at Major Madge's request, I visited Masulipatam on my way to Bengal and discussed with him the affairs of my deceased cousin. Lieut. Palk left no will, but it was his expressed intention to give everything to his child. On Palk's death in March, 1771, the Major wrote home to my cousin's friends, but, receiving no reply, decided after two years that some provision must be made for the infant, and arranged with me that the sum of Pags. 315, then in my hands, should be set apart for that purpose. I accordingly gave a bond for the amount. "It is not fit that I should here expatiate on the astonishing conduct of Lieut. Palk's friends ; but how an orphan infant, so nearly in affinity of blood to the mother of the child's father, could have escaped notice is unaccountable."

As to the estate of Ensign John Palk I know nothing, but surmise that it consisted only of clothing and equipment. I suppose that Major Madge brought both estates under one head in order to save trouble. The item A. Rs. 449 1a. 1p. must be part of the total sum of Pags. 1718 14f. 2c.

"THOS. PALK."

[*Holograph, 5 pp., 4to. This letter formed an enclosure of No. 257.*]

[No. 255.]

COLONEL ROBERT GORDON<sup>(1)</sup> to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1775, September 10th, Bombay.—It gave me much pleasure to receive a letter, dated 7th March, from so valued a friend as yourself. "Mr. Edmund Veale Lane,<sup>(2)</sup> whom you mention, is a young gentleman that I greatly esteem. He served lately with me as Judge Advocate at the siege and reduction of Tannah in Salsett, on which event that island, contiguous to Bombay, was annexed to the Company's revenues, and may be supposed in peaceable times to produce about five lacks of rupees. Mr. Lane is now of the Council at Tannah. By [his] being in the civil department it does not lie in my way to be of much service to him, as you well know ; but if ever it should, I shall be happy . . . to do him every good office in my power.

"I am happy to hear my old friends Charles Brett and Mac are alive and well. Pray remember me to them and to Colonel John Campbell, whose acquaintance I seem to have entirely lost, though I do not know how or from what cause, as I do believe our mutual regard and friendship was for many years sincere, and on my side ever has continued the same. Mr. Facey,<sup>(3)</sup> now a Lieutenant, is at present on duty at Tellicherry,

(1) Colonel Robert Gordon commanded an expedition to Surat and Broach in 1771, and in 1775 one against the Island of Salsette, which he seized and occupied.

(2) *Vide* No. 150, p. 169, note 2.

(3) George Facey. *Vide* No. 150, p. 169, note 3.

which Settlement, it's said, will soon be reduced from a Chiefship to that of a Residency . . .”

“ROBERT GORDON.”

[P.S.] —“ Our Board have lately, and I think contrar[y] to every rule of military service, employed Lieut. Colonel Keating, Chief Engineer and Commanding Officer of Artillery, to command an army as auxiliaries to the side they have taken, vizt. that of Ragaboy, who murdered his nephew,<sup>(1)</sup> in the present internal disputes among the Maharrattas. This Ragaboy was in possession of the government for sometime after the murder, but it so happened that his nephew's widow was brought to bed of a posthumous son, whose interest the ministry support, and are possessed of all the country and the revenues. After being four months in the field and nothing done of the smallest importance to the general cause, the ministry very artfully applied to the Supreme Council and obtained their express orders for a cessation of arms; and they have sent Lieut. Colonel Upton from Bengall to Poonah as their Ambassador with full powers to accommodat[e] all differences.

“ From a difference with our Board regarding the meaning of the last instructions of 29th March, 1774, and alluding to a Lieut. Colonel left in the command of Tannah Fort, his not receiving the parole from a Resident, and a very extraordinary letter I received from the Board in consequence, I had then resigned the service when a convenient opportunity offered for England or by the way of China. Soon after which time the Board took a part in the Maharratta war, and therefor nominat[ed] Lieut. Colonel Keating, which I repeatedly opposed, and afterwards offered my service; but they chose to adhere to their nomination, which I do believe they have since repented, our President and Council having signified their wishes that I should continue in the command till the cause of our differences should be determined by the Court of Directors, to whom they are referred; which proposal, as an approbation of my passed services, I reddily accepted of.”

[*Holograph*, 8 pp., 4to.]

[No. 256.]

JOHN D'FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1775, October 7th, Madras.—I shall be ready to take charge of your affairs from Mr. Stone when desired. I recommend the sale of the house. Although out of repair, it will fetch a good price owing to its situation. “I look upon houses to be now at their meridian in Madras.” General Smith sails in the *Colebrooke* on the 16th. Mr. Wynch remains till Lord Pigot arrives. “The disagreement between the majority in

(1) Narāyan Rāo, the Peshwa.



Council and the Nabob continues still. Mr. Stratton has quitted Vizagapatam. Sam Johnson is appointed to succeed him.

"The Governor General and Supreme Council having wrote to Basala Jung<sup>(1)</sup> to dismiss all the Europeans in his service, (it is reported he has five hundred men, French and others, in his pay) a considerable party is set out to be the bearers of the letter. I hope it will have no serious consequence.

"The animosities in the Supreme Council at Bengal rage very high. Nothing is done but from the spirit of party, and the majority seem determined to carry their point in everything and spare none of those that they think to be of a different interest. Joe Fowke is rewarded with the Residency of Banares<sup>(2)</sup>; his son Collector of that province; Mr. Stewart<sup>(3)</sup> put out of the Secretaryship; Playdwell<sup>(4)</sup> dismissed from Master of the Police—a post of proffit. He joined in an address to the Judges. In short, it is a melancholy prospect.

"The Supreme [Council] having disapproved of the measures pursued by the Bombayers in the war with the Morattas, a cessation of arms has taken place. After the risques we had run in a rupture with those powerful people it will be to be lamented if we give up the advantages we have gained in the acquisition of the island of Salsett, which is the grainery of Bombay. The conjuncture is favorable for dividing and thereby lessening the Moratta power; although it must be allowed the Government of Bombay did not concert their measures properly, which exposed us to real danger."

Hyder Ali preserved neutrality in the Maratha disputes. He has reorganized his army, and is expected to take possession of the districts east of Goa which Ragoba made over to him. Some suspect that he is aiming at Travancore.

"The exportation of the specie continues with us to a greater degree than ever. It is reckoned that in the course of this present year six lacks of pagodas have been exported to China and Europe—a melancholy and very alarming circumstance, for it must drain the country, and that very soon if continued . . ."

"JOHN D'FRIES."

[*Holograph*, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

(1) Basālat Jang. Vide No. 19, p. 23, note 6.

(2) This was a false rumour: Joseph Fowke was permitted to reside at Benares, but he was not appointed Resident.

(3) John Stewart, appointed by the Directors Secretary to the Bengal Government, arrived at Madras in 1772 and accompanied Hastings thence to Calcutta. Dismissed by the majority of Council in 1775 against the wish of the Governor General, he returned to England. His restoration was demanded as one of the conditions of the delivery of Hastings's provisional resignation.

(4) Charles Stafford Playdell (or Pleydell) arrived in India in 1744. He resigned the civil service about 1765 and returned to England, but went out again in 1771. In 1774 Hastings appointed him Superintendent of Police, a post from which he was dismissed by the Clavering faction in the following year. He was subsequently reinstated by order of the Directors. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Governor Holwell in 1759, and died at Calcutta in 1779.

[No. 257.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1775, October 10th, Fort St. George.—I regret that the pagodas sent home on account of Major Madge's estate realized an indifferent price, but I cannot follow your recommendation to send gold in ingots because I have nothing left to remit. The balance of the estate comes in bonds at 7*s.* 6*d.* per pagoda, payable one year after sight.

The statements of account which you send of the estates of your kinsmen Thomas and John Palk agree with those found among Major Madge's papers ; but I can trace nothing regarding the item Rs. 449 1*a.* 1*p.*, and I assume that both estates were included in the statement sent to you in October, 1772. I wrote to your nephew Thomas Palk on the subject, and I now enclose his reply to my letter. I also send a final statement of the account at the time of the Major's death. The balance due, Pags. 1,361 26*f.* 72*c.*, I have paid to your attorneys here.

"GEORGE BAKER."

[Autograph, 3 pp.; flsep.]

[Enclosure.—Statement of Account of the Estates of Thomas and John Palk. Other enclosures were Nos. 253 and 254.]

[No. 258.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1775, October 10th, Fort St. George.—Since I addressed you by the *Swallow*, man-of-war, on the 2nd July, I have learned with satisfaction "that Lord Pigot is coming out on the *Greenville* for the Government of Madrass, which gives all the inhabitants, merchants and people in these parts much pleasure and joy, as they lived very happy in his Lordship's Government formerly by his defending Madrass and distressing the French at Pondichery.

"We hear that our Government at Bombay and the Marattys are in cessation of arms, and the Gentlemen of [the] Supreme Council at Bengall sent an English gentleman<sup>(1)</sup> as Ambasidor to Ponnah to settle the matters with the Marattys, and to settle the difference of their family disputes ; and if that affair is once settled by our Ambasidor, the Marattys will always be our friends, and we shall have none of their troubles in these parts any more."

Four merchant ships have arrived at Pondicherry from France, bringing goods consigned to MM. Law and Moraçin and some warlike stores. Work on the fortifications there goes on. "Mr. Dowsett<sup>(2)</sup> was obliged to go away from this place to Pondichery about two years ago on account of his creditors, and from thence

(1) Colonel John Upton, Bengal Infantry. Vide No. 260, p. 255, note 6.

(2) Robert Dowsett. Vide No. 34, p. 56, note 1.

went to France. Now he came back upon one of these ships arrived lately at Pondichery . . .”

Mr. Monckton's ship has returned from Manila with dollars for the owners and “for the Arminion and Black Merchants of this place,” but the goods did not sell well.

“Mr. Hastings and the Gentlemen of [the] Supreme Council, they say, do not agree with one another, and they say both of them are waiting for answers from England about their disputes.”

General Smith and Governor Wynch are preparing for their homeward passage. “Mr. Wynch has been very kind and civil to every one in the place. [He] made a good Governour to all the inhabitants and people of these parts . . .”

“CHOCAPAH.”

[Autograph, 2 pp., demy.]

[No. 259.]

RICHARD WELLAND<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., M.P., Halldon House, near Exeter.

1775, October 12th, Madrass Road.—“Honoured Uncle . . . We are just come from Masulipatam, where I was on shore and saw Mr. Thomas Palk, and he behaved very kind to me and gave me some books. Mr. Baker asks me on shore very often, likewise Mr. Adams . . . We sail for Bombay on Sunday next. We expect Lord Pigot here every day, and Governor Winch goes home this year. I think hats is very dear in India . . .

“Believe me to remain, with the sincerest love for you and my aunt and cousins, &c., &c., dear Uncle, affectionately your ever dutiful nephew,

“RICHARD WELLAND.”

[Holograph, 1 p. flsep. Wax seal with profile head.]

[No. 260.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1775, October 13th, Fort St. George.—In a separate letter I have dealt with the affairs of your deceased kinsmen Thomas and John Palk. Those of Major Madge, I learn, you have committed to his father and family. I congratulate you on the increase to your own family.

“I should be glad to give you some account of publick affairs here, but my knowledge in this respect is very confined, though on the whole I think I may say that the Board do not draw well together. The late disputes about the Nabob's sending his second son as Fousdar<sup>(2)</sup> to Tanjore gave birth to party and resentment, perhaps to rancour, which has not yet subsided, nor is it like to in the present reign. The expectation of Lord

(1) Richard Welland, a naval cadet in Sir E. Hughes's flagship, was a son of Richard Welland, sen., who married Grace, Governor Palk's only sister.

(2) Fousdar (faujdar). Vide No. 42, p. 66, note 2.



Pigot's speedy arrival has by no means increased the respect that was paid to the present Governor. He has in general a party of Brooke, Dawson, Palmer and Jourdan, but not always a majority. Mr. Stratton<sup>(1)</sup> is very lately arrived here from his Chiefship of Vizagapatam, and a few days since resigned it. Dawson and Johnson were the best supported candidates, but the latter carried it for the Chiefship. Brooke solicited, but had no support. He was told by some that he had had his chance at Masulipatam.

"The ramparts of the West front of the town and the facing thereof are up to the cordong,<sup>(2)</sup> and bombproof casements<sup>(3)</sup> all round compleated. The dry dyt[c]h and cunette<sup>(4)</sup> are also in a good degree of forwardness, but the covered way and glacis not far advanced. The ramparts are indeed very substantial, but some cracks in the facing have already made their appearance, and have very lately been mended without any publick notice taken of it, and plaistered over. The East line is contracted for by Mr. Binfield,<sup>(5)</sup> and the foundation to the S.E. was just begun on, but left off again till after the monsoon.

"Mr. Stratton has tryed by every means he could to prevail on Mr. Wynch to go on the *Nottingham* and leave him in possession of the Chair untill Lord Pigot's arrival, but to no purpose. Mr. Wynche's friends prevailed on him to continue, as not knowing what may happen to prevent Lord Pigot's speedy arrival."

Affairs in Bengal you will hear of from your friends there. Our latest news from Bombay was "that the Mahrattas and our Gentlemen there had agreed on a cessation of arms; and the Supreme Council at Bengall haveing sent a Colonel Lupton<sup>(6)</sup> from there over land to Poonah with full powers to treat on a peace, it is supposed that good work will be effected.

"The General<sup>(7)</sup> and Colonel Bonjour<sup>(8)</sup> come home on the *Colebrooke*, which with the *Nottingham*, it is said, will certainly sail on the 15th instant. And on that day also Sir Edward Hughes in the *Salisbury*, together with the *Coventry* and *Sea Horse*, sail for the Mallabar coast. Sir John Clark<sup>(9)</sup> in the *Dolphin* sailed in March last from Bengall with a quantity of the Company's opium for Balambangan,<sup>(10)</sup> since which it has been reported, but without any certain foundation, that settlement is cut off.

(1) George Stratton. *Vide* No. 47, p. 72, note 6.

(2) Cordon, the string-course at the base of the parapet.

(3) Casemates, chambers in the ramparts.

(4) Cunette, a longitudinal trench dug in the ditch.

(5) Paul Benfield. *Vide* No. 78, p. 109, note 1.

(6) John Upton entered the Bengal Infantry as Captain in 1764, and became Lieut. Colonel in 1769.

(7) General Joseph Smith.

(8) Colonel Abraham Bonjour. *Vide* No. 30, p. 50, note 2.

(9) Sir John Clarke, who carried off Eliza Draper from Bombay in 1773 (*Cf.* No. 281, p. 271, note 4) commanded the man-of-war *Prudent* in the preceeding year, when he was knighted.

(10) Balambangan, an island off the north coast of Borneo, where a settlement was established by Alexander Dalrymple in 1764.

“Your nephew Mr. Palk at Bengall has been ill of a fever, but is well recovered again. Mr. Thomas Palk at Masulipatam was well a few days since. The *Salisbury*, man-of-war, was very lately there for some of the Company’s bales, which gave your two nephews, Messrs. T. Palk and R. Welland, an opportunity to see each other. Master Welland is very well, but as he has not been on shore since they came from Masulipatam, I have not seen him lately. For the Commadore pays close attention to the manner in which all his young gentlemen spend their time, and lets them come on shore when he thinks proper, and then only . . .

“As to myself and my affairs, they remain as they were; and I confess that I am glad we are to have Lord Pigot or any other new Governor, since, be who it will, he may *be less partial—more so than the present he cannot be.*” I have in fact been much hampered in my work, and unless matters are placed on a better footing I may have to seek redress in England. “The grand point I have had in view throughout life has been peace and quiet at the eve of it. I will still keep to my own maxim, and procure it if I can at any rate. This I hope you and yours now do, and may long, very long enjoy in the most ample degree . . .”

“GEORGE BAKER.”

[*Holograph*, 12 pp., 4to.]

[No. 261.]

REYNO[LD] ADAMS to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1775, October 14th, Fort St. George.—“Mr. Stone tells me he has wrote to you to recommend your selling the house I live in. If you should resolve upon this, I beg leave to repeat my request of being the purchaser, as I have dwelt in it so long . . .

“I have now to request your acceptance of a hogshead of old Goa arrack, said to be the best ever brought to Madras, on which account the small quantity brought here lately is much esteemed. It was got of the dispersed Fathers of the Inquisition . . .”

“REYNO. ADAMS.”

[*Autograph*, 2 pp., 4to. *Duplicate.*]

[No. 262.]

MUDOO KISTNA to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.]

1775, October 14th, Fort St. George.—“The Carnatick at present enjoys perfect peace and tranquility. Our Nabob and Hyder Ally Cawn in outward appearance seem to be upon good terms. The Moratta state is involved in a civil war; our Gentlemen upon the Malabar Coast are in alliance with Ragonaud Raw, who contends for the Government of Poona; a battle or two was fought between him and the ministerial army of the

said place, but it was not decisive. These domestic troubles have proved very lucky to Nizam Ally Cawn, who by the offers of his assistance not only draws money from the Ministers of Poona, but seizes all such districts and forts of his own territories which have been lately taken by the Morattas and added to their dominions. These troubles have also proved lucky to the other country Powers both on this and the other side of the river Kistnah, so as to free them from their incursions and demands of Choutt.

“By the account we received by his Majesty’s frigate the *Coventry*, Lord Pigot may be daily expected; but some people are of opinion that he, being embarked upon the Bombay ship, may probably arrive at that place, and proceed hither in the beginning of the next year; but what may be the will of Divine Providence no body can tell.”

[*Autograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

“MUDOO KISTNA.”

[No. 263.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1775, December 14th, Fort St. George.—“This acknowledges the receipt of your favor of the 12th of April last per *Granvil*. That ship anchored here about sunset on the 9th instant, Lord Pigot, Messrs. Russel,<sup>(1)</sup> Dalrymple,<sup>(2)</sup> Crawford,<sup>(3)</sup> &c., all well. His Lordship, &c., landed the next morning between eight and nine o’clock in the midst of a vast croud of people. Governor Wynch and Council, the Nabob and his family all met him at the seaside and accompanied him to the Council Room, which was filled with a croud of people. After about a quarter of an hour’s stay there, Lord Pigot and the Nabob withdrew to the Admiralty, where they had about half an hour’s conversation, when the Nabob retired to Chaupauk and his Lordship returned to the Council Room in the Fort Square. Here his commission was read and the usual compliments paid him. This done, the troops were drawn up on the parade and his commission read again, when he was saluted with three volleys of small arms and nineteen guns from the saluting battery.

(1) Claud Russell. *Vide* No. 12, p. 15, note 3.

(2) Alexander Dalrymple, a Madras civil servant of 1753, was in 1755 appointed Assistant to the Assaymaster at Fort St. George “to be instructed in the art of assaying.” During the siege of Madras he was Sub-Secretary. In 1759 he was sent on a commercial mission to the Eastern Islands, where he spent two and a half years, and concluded a treaty with the Sultan of Sulu. In 1762 he was given the command of the ship *London*, in which he passed a further period of two years among the islands, establishing a settlement at Balambangan, off the coast of Borneo, and constructing a series of charts. In 1765 he returned to England and published works on geography and hydrography. In 1775 Dalrymple sailed for Madras with Lord Pigot, as a member of Council. He sided with the Governor during the revolution, and was suspended by the Majority. Recalled to England in 1777, he was appointed Hydrographer to the Company in 1779 and to the Admiralty in 1795.

(3) Quintin Crawford. *Vide* No. 204, p. 216, note 1.



“The late and present Governor, together with the Council, &c., now retired to the Admiralty, where the keys were delivered to Lord Pigot and all the formallities of his introduction to the Government compleated, and the late and present Governor and Council all dined together both that [day] and the next, which was a Military Council day and the first of the present Government. But Mr. Wynch never assisted on any publick service after Lord Pigot’s landing, though orders have been given to show him the usual publick marks of respect. He lives at the Gardens, where Lord Pigot has hitherto generally breakfasted, though he sleeps in the Fort Square and the young ladies<sup>(1)</sup> and the rest of the family live at the Admiralty. The day after his Lordship landed he returned the Nabob’s visit and passed about an hour and [a] half with him. No extraordinary news of what may be intended to do with respect to the Tanjore business has yet transpired here, though people seem inclined to think that something new may happen.

“I have paid my respects to Lord Pigot and Messrs. Russel and Dalrymple. They received me very civilly, but I have not yet had an opportunity to speak to either of them about my business . . .”

I will make further enquiries about poor Goodlad’s affairs, but full accounts were sent to England last June. This letter goes by the *Salisbury*, Indiaman, Captain Bromfield, which called here yesterday on her way from Bengal. We hear Sir Edward Hughes arrived at Anjengo on the 18th November.

“By letters of the 1st November from Bombay Colonel Lupton,<sup>(2)</sup> the Envoy from Bengall, was arrived in the neighbourhood of Poonah. Our army was, it is said, advancing from the north nearer to the Maharatah capital, and the Government of Bombay had directed the Chief of Anjengo to advise the trade from Bengall, China, &c., to proceed so high as Tellicherry without fear, but not to run the risk of proceeding further till they sent them convoy. This looks as though all apprehensions of danger from the Maratahs was not yet over . . .

“Our Nabob haveing desired and obtained the permission of the General Council at Bengall to send Mr. Chambers<sup>(3)</sup> (a gentleman who has made a great progress in the Persian and other languages) to Poonah as his Embassador, he is to set out on that service in a few days.

“Bazzallyzung<sup>(4)</sup> haveing got together a number of French and other Europeans, induced our Gentlemen to send Captain Edmonds with about a hundred Europeans to Ongole to be ready to joyn the troops at Ellore if ocaation should require it, but they have hitherto remained quiet. This chief having lately laid siege to the capital of some neighbouring little

(1) Sophia and Leonora Pigot.

(2) Colonel Upton.

(3) William Chambers, of the Nawab’s service.

(4) Basūlat Jang. *Vide* No. 19, p. 23, note 6.

state, the besieged applied to Hyderally for assistance. He immediately, and as privately as possible, sent his son Tippa Saib with a large party of horse to the relief of the place, and came upon the besiegers so very unexpectedly and attacked them so vigorously as to cut off a great number of them, and among the rest a great part of Bazzallyzung's Europeans, which has for the present abated our apprehensions of his designs . . .

"About ten days since we received certain (though neither publick nor particular) accounts that Ballambangan had been taken by the people of Solo. It was a private letter from a Mr. Coles<sup>(1)</sup> of Council there. He exclaims much against the conduct of Mr. Herbert,<sup>(2)</sup> both as to his management before and at the attack of the place, for I cannot call it defence. It seems they neither made or endeavored to make any. Looseing gamesters always complain, and Mr. Herbert in his turn may perhaps have as much to say against his colleague in Council. But be this as it may, the Company, it seems, loose two hundred thousand pounds sterling in goods, &c., &c., by it. As they took to their vessels as soon as they could, I don't find that many, or perhaps any, lives were lost on the occasion. They are now at a place on the N.W. part of the Island of Borneo which they call Borneo proper, and from whence we expect publick advices from them every day."

Messrs. Stratton, Dawson and Brooke all talk of leaving for England shortly. Mr. Thomas Palk at Masulipatam was well when I last heard from him.

"The good old General<sup>(3)</sup>! My heart warms as the idea of him comes to my recollection, but I cannot say I lament him. He lived to a fulness of days and glory, and what could vanity itself wish more? . . ."

"GEORGE BAKER."

"P.S.—Lord Pigot is just returned from a visit to the Nabob in a rich palankin, which he has presented to him."

[*Holograph*, 11 pp., *flscp.*]

[No. 264.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1775, December 14th, Fort St. George.—"Ship *Grenville* arrived here the 9th of this month, with Lord Pigot, Mr. Russell, Mr. Dalrymple and Mr. Crawford, who landed themselves the next morning, and his Lordship's commission was read, and the Chair was delivered up to him immediately, and all the inhabitants, merchants and people paid our visit to his Lordship, and are all in these parts extremely glad to see his Lordship again in Madras . . . Moodu Kistna is acting at present all

(1) Edward Coles, second of Council at Balambangan.

(2) John Herbert, Chief at Balambangan.

(3) General Stringer Lawrence, who died 10th January, 1775.

his Lordship's affairs . . . Mr. Wynch has resigned up the Government, and lives at the Admiralty House . . .”

“CHOCAPAH.”

[*Autograph*, 1 p., demy.]

[No. 265.]

JOHN D'FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1775, December 14th, Madras.—You will learn from Mr. Petrie,<sup>(1)</sup> when he reaches England, of the state of Goodlad's affairs. “We have received the amount of the ruby ring from the Nabob, which shall be remitted by Company's bills in January, and make no doubt of as easily receiving payment for the house at the end of the term : by which means the concerns of Mr. Vansittart in Madras will, I hope, turn out much beyond expectation . . . I am happy to find Mrs. Morse better reconciled to England than at her first going. I think if Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Van could live together, it might greatly add to the satisfaction and contentment of both. I hope their pecuniary circumstances will turn out better than either of the ladys apprehended . . .

“Lord Pigot arrived the 9th, and I hope will pass the remainder of his days with us. A person of his reputation and intimate knowledge of the Company's and India affairs must be of great service to us in case of need. There was much alarm at Chepauk House, which is not over yet, but I wish and hope every thing will be settled and adjusted in a reasonable and friendly way. The machine certainly wanted winding up, and a tight hand is very necessary on such occasions.

“The dissensions at Bengal continue as violent as ever. Nothing will put an end to it but the removal of one party or the other. The war with the Morattas on the other coas[t] continues in suspense. The miserable settlement of Balamangan, I am told, will cost the Company four hundred thousand £, and the lives of many people . . .”

“JOHN D'FRIES.”

[*Holograph*, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 266.]

MAJOR J[AMES] RENNELL<sup>(2)</sup> to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr., at Halden House.

1776, January 2nd, Bengall.—Forgive my failure to reply earlier to your letter of March last. “I am aware of the inconveniencies and folly of returning to England without a competency. I thank God Mrs. Rennell<sup>(3)</sup> and myself look no farther than for the mere conveniencies of life ; so that what

(1) William Petrie. *Vide* No. 178, p. 196, note 1.

(2) *Vide* No. 145, p. 167, note 1. In the course of 1776 Rennell was attacked by a band of Sanyasis and dangerously wounded.

(3) Rennell married at Calcutta in 1772 Jane Thackeray, great-aunt of the novelist.



would be a trifling pittance to many will be affluence to us. Mrs. Rennell joins me in best wishes to yourself and Mrs. Palk. We have had the misfortune to lose our little girl, our only child; but I hope God Almighty will in good time give us another.”<sup>(1)</sup>

“ J. RENNELL.”

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to. Wax seal with arms.*]

[No. 267.]

LIEUT. J. SNELLING to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr., Halldown House.

1776, January 4th, Sick Quarters, Vizagapatam.—“ My ever honoured and esteemed Patron, Sick as I am at present, gratitude for the numberles[s] favors I have received obliges me to let you hear how I go on and where I am stationed.” I wrote last from Aska, whence I was transferred to Captain Mathews’s battalion at Chicacole. This was for me a fortunate event, for “ Captain Mathews,<sup>(2)</sup> whome I have the pleasure of informing you is my very generous and sincere friend, is esteemed by every body to be the most warlike genius in India, and the most enterprizing man that ever drew sword in this part of the country.” Since he took command of the Chicacole battalion “ he has not only conquered countries before unconquerable, but even with one battalion executed greater undertakings than his predecessors durst attempt even with thrice his number of men and some companies of Europeans besides . . . What a pleasure and satisfaction it is for a young fellow like myself to be under a man so renowned for every particular of the military art ! . . . Not long ago I was on detachment amongst those hills so famous for their fatality to European constitutions. I got a most severe fever and ague, which had very near ended my life ; and though I have been for six weeks under the doctor’s hands, am not as yet perfectly recovered. My friends perswade me to leave northern climes and try those more healthy ones to the southward, but what signifies my going to a place where, with the strictest o[e]conomy I should find it difficult to live on my pay, and probably, from the number of pleasures to be met with there, such as plays, horseracing, cockfighting, in short almost all those expensive amusements you have in England, might be drawn on to live at greater expence than my income can afford ? I can live here very genteelly on my means, and as I shall probably never more visit England, will make every thing as agreeable to myself as possible. Nothing but an extraordinary gust of fortune can ever procure a soldier one in these iron days, and to be dependant at home will not agree with my constitution ; consequently I shall never leave India . . .”

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

“ J. SNELLING.”

(1) Two sons and a daughter were born later.

(2) Captain Richard Mathews, commanding in the Circars, took Jeypur in 1775. Vide also No. 19, p. 27, note 1.

[No. 268.]

COLONEL GILBERT IRNSIDE to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1776, January 14th, Calcutta.—I enclose some papers for your perusal, and venture to offer the following observations on them :—"What could induce the man to so envenomed an attack without any provocation on my part, and to the branding himself with the obloquy of an informer, except it were to ingratiate himself, as many have lately attempted, with a prevailing party, no one can devise ; for the trifling difference we had about a command was merely a pretence, and could never be the cause of so virulent a proceeding. Thus however was it represented to the General,<sup>(1)</sup> and by him to the Board. To every member of the Council the charges appeared, as they really are, frivolous and insignificant ; and the Gentlemen individually declared to me how willingly disposed they all were to take a favourable part in it on my account. Unfortunately at that juncture the contentions at the Board on the dismissal of their late Secretary Mr. Stuart<sup>(2)</sup> had produced great personal animosities, and a debate ensued on the manner and form in which my business was to be taken up. The Governour insisted, as the matter was introduced by the General, on his making the proposition ; and the General asserted that it ought to proceed officially from the Governour.

"During the controversy Mr. Hastings sent me frequently to assure the General of his acquiescence in any terms tending to my justification, and General Clavering returned me as often with the like assurances to Mr. Hastings : both of them at the same time affirmed that they could repose no confidence in each other, and that their only repugnance to make the first advances proceeded from the diffidence each entertained that some advantage might be taken to the prejudice of the proposer ;—on one part because I had formerly acted as Secretary to the Governour, and on the other because the General since his arrival had particularly distinguished me, and had taken Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Ironside's brother, as his Persian Translator. The other Gentlemen, well inclined to serve me, attended their determination. But with every suffrage in my behalf, their mutual jealousies and disagreements absolutely prevented the effect of those favourable resolutions all of them wished might be adopted, and produced the general orders which are annexed to my letters. The ultimate decision of the matter itself is referred to the Court of Directors with a favourable representation of it from the Council in their public capacity, and, if I can believe themselves, a recommendation of it in their private characters. Yet I confess I cannot but deem myself, by the publication of these orders, very hardly dealt with, not only from their exposing me to the reflexions

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(1) General Sir John Clavering.

(2) John Stewart, Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

of the world, but as it must of course contribute to impair my authority in the army.

“Should you regard it’s consequence in the same point of view, you will grant me, I hope, your kind assistance, whenever the matter comes in agitation before the Court of Directors, to obtain an alleviation, if not a reversal, of those orders and of the censure they convey . . .”

“GILBERT IRONSIDE.”

[*Holograph*, 3½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 269.]

SIR EDW[AR]D HUGHES to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., at his house in St. James’s Place.

1776, January 15th, Bombay.—“I came here to dock and refitt, [as] well as assist, if I can, in the treaty making at Poonah. This only serves to acknowledge the receipt of your favour per *Grenville*, arrived the 10th of last month at Madras, and to assure you of the welfare of your nephew,<sup>(1)</sup> who grows a very smart young man. He is perfectly well, and shall want no one thing in my power. I will do myself the pleasure to write you by the *Dolphin* more fully. You will have received many letters from me in the course of last year, and which you shall continue to do while [I am] abroad.”

“EDWD. HUGHES.”

[P.S.]—“My best respects wait on Mrs. Palk.”

[*Holograph*, 1½ p., 4to. *Wax seal with arms, defaced.*]

[No. 270.]

CHOCAPAH to the HONBLE. ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 2nd, Fort St. George.—“I hear that the Government of England and the East India Company has given positive orders to Lord Pigot to take Tonjore and the countrys belonging thereunto from the Nabob, and to put the same in the King of Tonjore’s possession, where the Company’s troops are to be placed, and the King to disburse the charges of the troops. The Nabob at first seemed unwilling, and told the Governour and Council to do herein as they think proper; but at last his Lordship and the Gentlemen in Council, I hear, are determined . . . , and orders is sent to Trichinopolly for the regiment there to be in readiness to march . . .

“Mr. Macpherson,<sup>(2)</sup> who came here as purser to Captain

(1) Richard Welland. *Vide* No. 259, p. 254, note 1.

(2) John Macpherson came to Madras at the age of 22 as purser of a ship which was commanded by his uncle Alexander Macleod. He ingratiated himself with Walajah, and was engaged to represent him in England. Macpherson approached the Duke of Grafton on the Nawab’s behalf, and obtained from the Directors a writership for himself. He entered the Madras civil service in 1770, but in 1776 he was dismissed by Lord Pigot’s Government for conduct prejudicial to the Company. Returning to England, he entered Parliament, and in 1781 was appointed by Lord North to be a member of the Supreme Council. On Hastings’s resignation in 1785 Macpherson became provisional Governor-General, and he was created a baronet in the following year.



Mac[e]lod in 1767 . . made great interest with the Nabob, promising to get some great men in his Majesty's Court in England to his interest, as also that he will come out to India as a covenanted servant to the Company. The said Mr. Macpherson, I hear, when he came out as a Company's Writer . . . contracted great friendship with the Nabob, and gives him all the intelligence he possibly can of what passes amongst the Gentlemen here . . . And since the present circumstances commenced between his Lordship, &c., and the Nabob, he was found frequent[ly] going [to] the Nabob in an unseasonable hour, that is, at eleven or twelve at night . . . ; and [a] few days ago he, together with Mr. Stuart<sup>(1)</sup> that came from Bengall to go from hence, went to the Nabob at about 12 at night. This behavior of Mr. Macpherson coming to the knowledge of the Governour and Council, they thought proper to suspend him the Company's service . . .

"I hear that Mr. Sadleir,<sup>(2)</sup> Resident at Bandermulunka, behaved very ill to the inhabitants and merchants there, taking their vessels at freight against their will to load them with his goods and merchandize, beating and ill treating several people, taking bribes and extorting money from several people. Some of them, I hear, complained of it to the Governour and Council, upon which the Board was pleased to appoint Mr. Holland, Mr. Perring and Mr. Davidson<sup>(3)</sup> as [a] committee to examine into this matter . . . They are now examining this affair<sup>a</sup> at Masulipatam . . .

"Several gentlemen in the place, for want of a way of remitting their fortune to England by bills, sends it in gold and Star pagodas on every ship that goes from hence, which impoverish[es] the place very much.

"I hear that the Malays has taken Ballumbungam, and our Gentlemen who were there quitted the place and went to another Malay island. The Company on this occasion, I hear, will sustain a loss of about four hundred thousand pounds on that island. I hear this is all owing to the bad proceeding of our Gentlemen there . . .

"CHOCAPAH."

"P.S.--Since I wrote the above the Nabob has given written orders in the hands of his Lordship, and directed to Najeeb Cawn, who is Killador<sup>(4)</sup> of Tonjore, to deliver up the place to the English : and orders has been sent to Colonel Harper<sup>(5)</sup> at Trichinopolly to march with his regiment there and take possession of Tonjore the 9th of this month . . . And it is further reported that Sir Robert Fletcher and another gentleman

(1) John Stewart, late Secretary, Bengal. *Vide* No. 256, p. 252, note 3.

(2) Anthony Sadleir. *Vide* No. 69, p. 96, note 2.

(3) Peter Perring, Alexander Davidson and John Holland were Madras civil servants of 1759, 1760 and 1761 respectively.

(4) *Kiladār*, the commander of a fortress ; from Pers. *kila*, a fort,

(5) Humphrey Harper, as Captain, commanded a sepoy battalion in 1770. He was a Lieut. Colonel in 1775, and in 1779 led a force into Guntūr in aid of Basālat Jang against Haidar Ali.

will soon set out from hence for Tonjore, and restore to the King the countrys belonging to him in the name of the English Company. The restoration of the countrys to the King of Tonjore will be a lasting monument to the English nation, to the Company and to his Lordship all over these parts, and the Marattys will rejoice greatly in the English nation's generosity, and [it will] be a lasting fame to the nation.

“The 10th February, 1776.”

[*Autograph*, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  pp., *demy.*]

[No. 271.]

THO[MA]S PALK to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 8th, Maz[ulipata]m.—Not having received a single letter from you during the past two years, I fear that you must be displeased with me. Were your silence due to the reports of malicious persons, you would doubtless have given me an opportunity of replying to their charges; so that I know not to what cause to attribute your displeasure. I owe much to you, and I assure you that my conduct has always been such as you would approve.

I have been at this station nearly three years, but my position does not yet enable me to dispense with the allowance you are pleased to make me. I refer you to Mr. Whitehill<sup>(1)</sup>, who has resigned the Chiefship and is now going home, for information regarding me. From him I have received many civilities.

“The Nabob is dispossessed of his newly acquired territory, and our troops are marching to take possession—a severe stroke on the Nabob, and he seems to be sensibly affected. India at present is in a state of tranquility, and likely to continue so if the French do not take it into their heads to disturb us . . .”

“THOS. PALK.”

[*Holograph*, 3 pp., *flscp.*]

[No. 272.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 10th, Fort St. George.—“The new Governor seems to have been particularly attentive in showing his predecessor every civility in his power during the two months he has continued here since his supercession. Lord Pigot has indeed taken the Fort House to himself, but the Admiralty and Garden House are occupied in common by him and Mr. Wynch together with both their families. The late Governor continues to receive all the honours usually paid to him in that capacity equally with the present. He has the head of the table, does and receives all the honours of it, and each ask their own friends as they please. In fine, it appears to me that Lord Pigot is willing to send home Mr. Wynch in as good humour as his

(1) John Whitehill. *Vide* No. 19, p. 29, note 2.

adopting contrary measures in respect of publick affairs will admit of, well knowing, I should suppose, that a man of two plumbs in England will be a more desirable friend or formidable enemy in proportion as that sum exceeds a mere competency.

"The negotiation of the surrender of Tanjore to the Company's troops has been carried on between the Nabob and Lord Pigot (on the part of the Board) with such secrecy that I am utterly unable to say on what conditions or under what restrictions, either in respect of the Rajah, the Nabob or the Company, the new arrangements are to take place. Report has it that the Nabob's garrison was to march out, and a garrison of the Company's to march in, as yesterday the 9th February . . ."

The *Ankerwyke*, which is now ready to sail, carries Mr. Wynch and also Mr. Stuart<sup>(1)</sup>, late Secretary, Bengal. Mr. and Mrs. Vansittart arrived here yesterday in the *Hillsborough* on their way to England. Mr. Thomas Palk has asked me to repay to Mr. Wynch what the latter advanced to him in respect of your allowance since receipt of your instructions to withhold the allowance. I was obliged to reply that your orders must be obeyed. This attitude was painful to me owing to my friendship for Mr. Palk. When I met him in Madras in 1772 he seemed to be financially embarrassed, and on the occasion of his visit to Bengal I advised him to confide in his brother. Whether he did so or not I cannot say, but I venture to suggest that one more effort of benevolence on your part might set him on his feet again.

After the death of Mr. Goodlad it was found that his bond debts were about Pags. 25,000 and book debts Pags. 15,000. Of the former, half has been paid, and the assets suffice to meet the remaining half. James Johnson, now insolvent in England, owes Pags. 8,000, but the Nawab gave such engagement for that sum as permitted Johnson to leave Madras. On the recovery of the amount the book creditors will receive about half their dues.

"By the last accounts from Bombay we are given to understand that Colonel Lupton<sup>(2)</sup> was arrived there, and that there was then a prospect of a peace being concluded between the English and the Maratahs on favorable terms for the former. Sir Edward Hughes with his Squadron is there, and will not return hither till May next . . ."

"GEORGE BAKER."

"P.S. --That you might not be too much puzzled in making out my scrawl I have made my amanuensis (who does not understand a word of what is said) transcribe it."

[*Autograph*, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., *flsep.*]

(1) John Stewart. *Vide* No. 256, p. 252, note 3.

(2) Colonel Upton.



[No. 273.]

MRS. MARY TURING<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 10th, Fort St. George. Received 17th Feb., 1777.—I have asked my son to wait on you with this letter. Though I have not received any direct communication from Mrs. Palk, I have had news of her and your family from my friend Mrs. Casamaijor<sup>(2)</sup>. “My two daughters<sup>(3)</sup> arrived here in June, 1773, and in August following were both happily married, the eldest to Mr. John Turing, and the youngest to Mr. Saunders. They both made me a grandmother . . . My eldest son, Taylor, is an officer in the Company’s service, so Bob<sup>(4)</sup> is now my only care. My wish is to get him appointed a Writer in the service at Madras, for which I must solicit and rely upon the interest of my friends. You have upon all occasions shewn a regard for me and my family, which emboldens me to request your assistance towards my son . . .”

“MARY TURING.”

[Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 274.]

J[OHN] M[AXWELL] STONE to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 12th, Fort St. George.—“You have already been advised that Mr. De Fries had taken upon him the joint management of your affairs . . .

“The orders received by the *Grenville* regarding the Nabob are exceedingly mortifying to him. They direct that the country of Tanjore shall be restored to the Rajah, and have severely censured this Government for having dispossessed him. It might easily be shewn where the blame ought to lie; but as a refutation of the arguments used by the Directors can answer no good end either to [the] service or myself, I shall not attempt it. I have frequently, my dear Sir, in my letters to you shewed the dangers to be expected from the support the Nabob received from home in opposition to this Government. The eyes of people seem to be now open; but they now proceed from one extreme to the other, and have, I think, unhappily missed that proper medium which alone could unite the Company’s and the Nabob’s interest on a solid and permanent footing.

“The Court of Directors have appointed a Committee of Circuit, who are to make the tour of the Circars and Jagueer<sup>(5)</sup>, and report their present state and capacity for improvement. The members of the Committee were appointed by the Directors,

(1) This lady, daughter of Captain John De Morgan, married first Thomas Taylor and secondly Surgeon Robert Turing.

(2) Rebecca Casamaijor. Vide No. 18, p. 22, note 1.

(3) Mary and Helen Turing married, respectively, John Turing and Edward Saunders, both civil servants of 1762.

(4) Robert Turing, jun., entered the Madras Army in 1778, rose to the rank of Major, and died in 1801.

(5) The Company’s Jaghire. Vide No. 118, p. 146, note 3.

and consist of Messrs. Dawson, Russell, Dalrymple, Johnson and Mackay. I am, I can assure you, exceedingly happy at being left out of this disagreeable commission, for such I am convinced it must prove if it be executed in the manner intended . . .”

“J. M. STONE.”

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 275.]

H.H. the NAWAB WALAJAH to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 12th, Chepauk.—“The Gentlemen of the Company have been induced by groundless reports, which have never had any foundation from me or my family, and the representation of people who attend only to their own interest, to send orders by Lord Pigot in regard to the Tanjore affairs, as you may have publickly heard. His Lordship has, since his arrival, been an eye witness of the state of affairs, and is convinced that the reports which prevailed in England were false. He has therefore solemnly promised that he will make a just representation to England. I have, however, agreed to take a Company’s garrison into Tanjore on the same terms as in Trichinopoly and other forts to convince the Company of my invariable friendship and dependance on them, which have uniformly subsisted from the beginning. I am always obliged to them. You’ll be thoroughly informed of all matters by the copies of my letters to the Gentlemen of the Company and to the Governor and Council of Madrass, which I have sent to Colonel Maclean. I expect candor and justice from the Gentlemen of the Company in regard to the Tanjore country, which is entirely my right. You are my old friend; therefore I hope you’ll give me your assistance in protecting my rights that I may always remain under obligations to you.

“What can I say more?”

[1½ p., *flsep.* Wax seal on outer cover with Persian inscription.]

[No. 276.]

JOHN D’FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 12th, Madras. —“Mr. George Vansittart is here in his way to Old England on the *Hillsborough*. To him I shall beg leave to refer you for all particulars of India news, confining myself entirely to the subject of our Nabob, who, poor man, has been greatly affected with the Company’s orders regarding Tanjore. Lord Pigot has behaved with a great deal of management and indulgence towards the Nabob in the execution of the orders, and he is himself perswaded of his Lordship’s favorable disposition towards him. The English troops were to enter Tanjore the 9th instant: it is said a part of the Nabob’s people are to continue in the Fort. The Nabob agrees to everything—an English garrison, the release of the

Rajah, a proper maintenance to him, a handsome Jaghire for the Company; I daresay he will give up all the seaports, Nagore, Trimelivashel;—in short, he will do every thing to save appearances, that the countrey be not wrested out of his hands, which undoubtedly must make him look very little in the eyes of his own people as well as the other countrey powers. His best friends have advised him to submit chearfully to the Company's orders, and then remonstrate to Europe. It has cost him a great deal to bring himself to this way of thinking, which his good sense has at last determined him to. It has certainly been a bitter cup to him, and he has found it out when late that his new friends have been the principal cause of the mortification which he now suffers. He has great confidence in your friendship and of Mr. Vansittart's family, and tells me he has wrote to you and sent copys of some papers which will inform you of what past in this business. His request is so reasonable now that I dare say you and his other friends will afford him assistance in having him redressed. As it is not sound policy that he should be lifted up too much, I don't think it prudent neither that he should be too much lowered, as it certainly is the case in this business. The Nabob declares that this business of the conquest of Tanjore has cost him in the two expeditions three millions of sterling, near three crores of rupees; and although he has had the revenues of the country for two years, he has been obliged to maintain so considerable a military force that it has, I think, taken off above one third of it; so that if the country is taken away from him entirely, he must be a great looser by his bargain.

"The unlucky turn that the American business has taken has filled us with much serious reflection. We anxiously wait to hear from England. God send that matters may have been made up."

"JOHN D'FRIES."

[Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.]

[No. 277.]

GEO[RGE] BAKER to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 15th, Fort St. George.—"My last address to you was under date the 10th instant per *Ankerwike*, on which ship Governor Wynch imbarked this morning about eight o'clock. News having been received from Colonel Harper that he with his detachment took possession of Tanjore the 9th instant, that ship carries advices thereof. She lyes with her topsails atrip ready to get under way the moment the wind admits of it . . .

"The Committee of Circuit will soon set out on their business. Mr. Whitehill,<sup>(1)</sup> who was chief of Masulipatam, resigned soon

(1) John Whitehill. Vide No. 19, p. 29, note 2.



after Lord Pigot's arrival. The busy world say he chose not to stay till the new Committee came their rounds." He and Mr. John Sullivan<sup>(1)</sup> sail in a French ship, the *Ajax*, from Pondicherry. Crauford,<sup>2</sup> as senior, takes charge temporarily at Masulipatam. Stratton, Brooke, Dawson and Russell are all said to be candidates for that Chiefship, but the last named will probably be appointed.

"In Lord Pigot's intercourse with the Nabob he has somehow procured from him a memorial from a Mr. Macpherson<sup>(3)</sup> (who is about six years' standing in the Company's civil service) to the Nabob, representing his essential services and claiming a consideration for them. This gentleman has been in great confidence with his Highness, and report has it that his council [*sic*] to him has been to disregard the Company and cultivate a good understanding with [the] Ministry, which he (Macpherson) made the Nabob believe he could greatly promote by his connections in England. But the affair of Tanjore seems to have opened his eyes. Macpherson's memorial was produced to the Board by Lord Pigot, and he in consequence was immediately dismissed the service and ordered to Europe. It is said he has made twenty thousand pounds . . ."

"GEO. BAKER."

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., *flsep.*]

[No. 278.]

MUDOO KISTNA to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 16th, Fort St. George.—"After long expectation Lord Pigot arrived on the 9th December last, came ashore on the 10th, and succeeded to the Government: which being attended with the seasonable rains in the country this year, proved very agreeable to the people. At present the Carnatick enjoys a perfect peace and tranquility. Hyder Ally Cawn in the Balagaut waged a war against Basalut Jung and other country powers, and after he obliged them to pay him certain sums of money, marched against Moraryraw and besieged his capital Gooty.<sup>4</sup> It is thought that the matters will be accommodated between them.

"His Lordship got our garrison placed in the Tanjore Fort, and it is said that the King is set at liberty, and that the country will be soon restored to him . . ."

"MUDOO KISTNA."

[*Autograph*, 2 pp., *4to.*]

<sup>(1)</sup> John Sullivan. *Vide* No. 19, p. 29, note 3.

<sup>(2)</sup> Quintin Crauford. *Vide* No. 204, p. 216, note 1.

<sup>(3)</sup> John Macpherson. *Vide* No. 270, p. 263, note 2.

<sup>(4)</sup> Gooty (Gūti), a town in the Anantapur District.

[No. 279.]

A. VENKATA to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 17th, Madrass.—The grant of “the village of Amurampadoo dependant on [the] “Seven Magaumums,”<sup>(1)</sup> which you were pleased to make to me, has been recognized by your successors, and the Charity connected with the temple is maintained. Mr. Stone has helped me to overcome a difficulty with the Durbar by settling the rents of the village, and I hope you will ask him and Mr. Stratton to support me in the event of any interference by the servants of the Nawab.

“AMERAMBADOO VENKATY.”

“Dubash to Mrs. Palk.”

[Holograph, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 280.]

J[OHN] M[AXWELL] STONE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 21st, Fort St. George.—I advise the despatch of a First of exchange by Mr. Arthur Owen,<sup>(2)</sup> who sails from Pondicherry in the *Aquilon*. The Second will be conveyed by Mr. John Sullivan<sup>(3)</sup> in the *Ajax*.

“J. M. STONE.”

[Autograph, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 281.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, February 23rd, Fort St. George.—“The *Hillsboroug[h]*, with Mr. and Mrs. Vansittart on board, was dispatched hence for Europe the 16th instant, but on account of light or unfavorable winds she did not get out of sight till the 20th . . . This letter comes by Captain Pegou, late of the *Huntingdon*. He with Mr. Whitehill and John Sullivan go passengers in the old *Ajax*, now a French Indiaman. A Mrs. Draper<sup>(4)</sup> of Bombay (who is a niece of Mr. Whitehill’s) accompanies them. They all set out for Pondicherry to-morrow . . .

“We have now a garrison in Tanjour. The King is said to

(1) The “Seven Magans” of Tripassore, from Tam. *magānam*, a small revenue area of about six villages.

(2) In 1778 “Mr. Arthur Owen,” Aide-de-camp to Sir Eyre Coote, was granted by the Directors a brevet lieutenant-colonelcy on the Bengal establishment. He came to India with Coote at the end of that year, accompanied him to Madras in 1780, and commanded a brigade at the second battle of Polilur. Owen was with Coote at the time of the General’s death in 1783.

(3) *Vide* No. 19, p. 29, note 3.

(4) Eliza Draper, born at Anjengo in 1744, was the daughter of May Sclater, who had married a sister of John Whitehill. Eliza became the wife of Daniel Draper of the Bombay civil service. When on a visit to England in 1765, she met Laurence Sterne, with whom she corresponded. She returned to India in 1767, and about 1773 eloped from Bombay in a ship commanded by Sir John Clarke. Mrs. Draper went first to her uncle Thomas Whitehill, of the Bombay service, and afterwards to his brother John at Masulipatam. She accompanied the latter in 1776 to England, where she died two years later.

be at large ; but what the terms are on which the Nabob made the surrender, or on which the King has been restored, I am utterly ignorant. The transactions of the Board are kept abundantly more secret than they were in the former reign. The Board has struck off all the half batta from the garrisons which had that emolument heretofore, save only that of the commanding officer. You will readily suppose this will not be considered as a popular act by the army."

Crauford is now in charge at Masulipatam, but the appointment of Chief will probably go ultimately to Russell, though the latter is at present one of the Committee of Circuit.

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., *flscp.*]

"GEORGE BAKER."

[No. 282.]

RICH[AR]D GOODLAD<sup>(1)</sup> to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1776, March 16th, Dinagepoor.—Both my brothers have had the privilege of corresponding with you. I now follow their example, and hope you will forgive me for not having done so earlier. I am Persian Translator to the Revenue Council at this place, where I have been for two years. My brother Anthony is well.

[*Holograph*, 3 pp., 4to.]

"R. GOODLAD."

[No. 283.]

ROBERT PALK, jun., to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, March 21st, Calcutta. Received 28th October.—"I received your favor of the 9th April. It had been so well ducked in the salt water that it was with great difficulty I could make it out. The packet was dispatched from Madras on a country vessel which was lost near Annoar<sup>(2)</sup> together with the greatest part of her cargo . . .

"Tom, I believe, can give the best account of himself. He has lately taken me in to pay a debt of 2,000 Rs. for him to Mr. Whyneh, money it seems he borrowed of Mr. W. on the footing of an allowance from you, which he was called on to repay ; and rather than plead inability, he chose to draw the money from me by representing that he had incurred several small debts to that amount at Madras for necessarys which he could not do without, &c. I paid the money, but I must confess, had I known the real state of the case, I should have told him that Mr. Whyneh was better able to wait his time of payment than myself. I am informed that Mr. Russell is appointed to Masulipatam. In that case I will request he will take Mr. Thomas under his protection and employ his time well. I believe Whitehill and Sullivan were as well please[d] to let him live in idleness.

(1) Richard Goodlad, brother of William Martin Goodlad and Anthony Goodlad.

(2) Ennore, 12 miles north of Madras.



"I am writing with aching bones. Harry and I got overset in a ditch last night returning from town in the midst of a violent storm . . ."

"ROBERT PALK."

[*Holograph*, 3 pp., 4to.]

[No. 284.]

SIR EDW[AR]D HUGHES to ROB[ERT] PALK, Esqr.

1776, March 22nd, Bombay.—I received your letter of the 11th April by the ship *Grenville*, which brought Lord Pigot to Madras, and am surprised you had had no letters from me. "Though I sailed from Madras four days before the arrival of the Supreme Council and Judges, I waited in the mouth of the river and never sett my foot on shore till I did so with them at Calcutta. They were well pleased with us, and have continued so; I wish I could say as much among themselves. Indeed I have had that good fortune at all the Company's Settlements, making their welfare my great object.

"The climate agrees perfectly with me. I go early to bed, rise the same, and very seldom chevaux [*sic*]. I am told Lord Pigot brings regulations respecting Tanjour, but am afraid not very pleasing to the poor Nabob, who certainly merits every attention from the English, being in my opinion their most sincere friend in this country. Nor has Colonel Upton been able to procure one article for him in his late negociation with the Mharattas. You will hear much said of this Treaty; that Ragobah has been able to get little security and no share in the government: in short, the Presidency of Bombay made a treaty with him to support his attempt, which that of Fort William disapproved and sent a deputy to make peace, which was concluded and signed at Poonah the 1st of this instant. What they look upon [as] the view and intention of the Court of Directors [is] that, if Salsette and Bassein could not be acquired by treaty, it should not be by force. Yet the presence of the squadron has had its use at this juncture. Docked and refitted, I shall return next month to Madras.

"Here I must tell you your nephew<sup>(1)</sup> is perfectly well, a fine lad and will make a very clever man in our profession. He wants for nothing; has just paid me a week's visit on shore. The demands of so very few ships are so trifling I cannot serve you as you desire, or be assured I would do it. I hear Mr. Vansittart and family are gone home: he was very busy when I was in Bengal . . ."

"EDWD. HUGHES."

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

(1) Richard Welland. *Vide* No. 259, p. 254, note 1.

[No. 285.]

H[ENRY] VANSITTART, jun., to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Park Place,  
London.

1776, March 30th, Calcutta.—I have received your letter of the 4th April, and beg to assure you that, notwithstanding my former ill-chosen words, I am very sensible of your goodness to me. I now renew my request that you will be so kind as to undertake the management of my affairs in England. “I shall be obliged if you will present my duty to Mrs. Palk, and love to Nancy, Lawrence, Kitty and the unknown.<sup>(1)</sup> Your dutiful nephew,

“H. VANSITTART.”

[*Holograph*, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  p., 4to. *Wax seal with arms.*]

[No. 286.]

DAN[IE]L CORNEILLE<sup>(2)</sup> to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr.

1776, June 11th, St. Helena.—Your letter of the 27th February has reached me, and its enclosures for Messrs. Wynch and Vansittart have been delivered. “I have been made happy in the acquaintance of the only part of the Vansittart family before unknown to me, as they have been in my house during their stay upon this island. The good example you have set me of four little ones I am endeavouring to follow. My present family consist of two boys and one girl, besides one upon the stocks that will make his or her appearance in three months; after which, having followed your example, I aspire to no further wish of greater perfection . . .”

“DANL. CORNEILLE.”

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 287.]

H.H. the NAWAB WALAJAH to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, June 20th, Chepauk.—“His Highness the Nabob Wallaujau, Ummeer ul Hindh, Omdaht ul Mulk, Ausuph ud Doulah, Anweer ud Deen Cawn Bahauder, Zuphur Jung, Sepah Salaur, Subahdar of the Carnatick, to Robert Palk, Esqr.

“I have received your friendly letter of the 17th November last. It arrived at a time I was under great uneasiness of mind, and gave me great comfort. I am much obliged to you for your promises to assist Colonel Maclean<sup>(3)</sup> in my affairs. I have already acquainted you with the arrival of Lord Pigot and his bringing the Company’s order in regard to Tanjore. Though the Fort was provided with all kinds of military stores,

(1) Emelia Palk, born 1774.

(2) Daniel Corneille was Lieut. Governor of St. Helena. He became Governor of the Island in 1782.

(3) Colonel Lauchlan Maclean. *Vide* No. 169, p. 189, note 2.

I put it into his Lordship's hands without any difficulty, and gave no opposition to my friends the Company, but submitted to them the state of affairs here. Every gentleman here evidently perceives that it is his Lordship's intention to distress and disgrace me, and he has seized every opportunity of injuring my affairs and of hurting my honor and authority; and though I am the firmest ally to his Majesty, the Company and the nation that they have in this country, his Lordship has reduced me to a situation not to be described. The Gentlemen here as well as at Bengal have much disapproved of his Lordship's conduct. I place great dependance upon your assistance, as you are my old friend, and were you here now you would protect my honor from his Lordship's insults; and I now hope that you will explain these matters to your friends, and take measures for giving me redress. As the ship in which this goes sails immediately, I can not now write at length, but I have desired that Colonel Macleane will acquaint you fully with Lord Pigot's behaviour. Mr. Salmon, who will deliver this letter, has been an eye witness to his Lordship's proceedings. Sir Edward Hughes has acquainted me with what you wrote to him about my affairs, and I am much obliged to you for it.

"What can I say more?"

"P.S.—The reason of his Lordship's great displeasure towards me is this:—The order which he brought here in regard to Tanjore, to answer private views of his own, was prejudicial to the Company and the publick business; and though I made no opposition to it, and wanted only to explain the true state of my affairs and my rights, and the prejudice that would attend my business, his Lordship endeavoured to shut up my mouth, as he thought that my representations would prevent him from pursuing his private interest; but I have laid a true state of affairs before his Lordship, and before the Company also. What he now constantly does is with a view of destroying my honor and my rights."

[3 $\frac{1}{4}$  pp., *flsep.* *Endorsed* "Nabob, 20th June, 1776. Received 22nd June, 1777." *The outer cover, which is addressed to* "Robert Palk, Esq., Bruton Street," *is marked* "Duplicate of letter of the 20th June," *and is endorsed* "Detained till 9th June, having been enclosed in a packet directed to Colonel Macleane (by the Grenville). L.M." *The cover bears a wax seal inscribed in Persian character with the titles of the Nawab nearly as set forth at the head of his letter. The original letter appears to have been received on the 3rd February, 1777.]*

[No. 288.]

JOHN D'FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, June 20th, Madras. Received 5th February, 1777.—  
"I have received your favor of the 15th December, and waited on the Nabob myself with your letter, who seemed very happy at your expressions of friendship, and puts great reliance in



your assistance. He has of late been in a very disagreeable, nay distressfull situation. The part Lord Pigot had to act of delivering up Tanjore naturally occasioned a distance between them. Two months after his Lordship's arrival the Nabob consented to deliver up Tanjore Fort to an English garrison : he could not be prevailed upon to go further. Lord Pigot, after trying in vain for near two months more to perswade the Nabob to surrender the countrey to the Rajah, he went down himself, being vested by the Council with the powers of a deputation for reinstating the Rajah, and he was declared Commander in Chief of all the garrisons he went through. Messrs. Dalrymple<sup>(1)</sup> and Jourdan<sup>(2)</sup> accompanied his Lordship, but they were simple companions, the former doing all his business. The Rajah was accordingly reinstated on the 11th of April. The Nabob had assigned the revenues of Tanjore proceeding from the February crop of grain to Europeans and others to the amount of, as it is currently reported, fifteen or sixteen lacks of pagodas. Mr. Benfield had the largest Tanakaw ; Mr. Monckton, George Smith, Adams, De Souza and others had also. The grain was a great part cutt and received by the Tanakawholders. However, it did not signifie : the Rajah's people, supported by our troops, possessed themselves of it. Since Lord Pigot's return there has been some division in Council, and the Majority was that the Tanakaws should be paid. The Nabob having applyed to Sir Edward Hughes for his protection, alledging that he apprehended violence from Lord Pigot, has prevented his Lordship from going to him of late. The Supreme Council has also wrote to the Governor and Council here, disapproving Lord Pigot's sending for the Dabir<sup>(3)</sup> away by a military force from the Nabob's territorys. He was manager for the Rajah, and since for the Nabob, of the Tanjore country, and he was ordered away to Alianore just before Lord Pigot got to Tanjore.

"These disagreements render the Settlement unhappy, and affects credit very much, and I am afraid the breach between Lord Pigot and the Nabob is so wide that it will hardly be closed. I apprehend things were pushed rather too far. The Tanakaws was a matter of such general concern to the Settlement that it interests almost every body, and has occasioned much uneasiness. Such is our situation at present, and no doubt very different things will be wrote by the different partys. The Nabob's character will on the one side be made out as a dissipating intriguing man aiming fast towards independence ; and his own partizans will represent him as ill treated and oppressed grandure. It is very certain that the Nabob is so very different a character now, both in his political as well as personal capacity, to what he was 14 years ago that the method of

(1) Alexander Dalrymple. *Vide* No. 263, p. 257, note 2.

(2) Francis Jourdan. *Vide* No. 33, p. 54, note 1.

(3) *Dabir*, Pers., secretary.

treating him then can't be any ways proper at present. A vigorous Administration can easily contain the Nabob within the proper bounds, at the same time that he should not be lowered too much in the eyes of the publick, particularly the natives. It is certain that he has not the least notion of order, regularity or oeconomy in his finances, and if our Government could settle the revenues and expences of the Nabob on a proper reasonable footing, it will be the greatest service they could render the publick as well as the Nabob. It will be a[n] arduous as well as a very delicate undertaking : however, in my humble opinion better worth attempting than many things else which causes ill blood and no real advantage. Your assisting the Nabob in this time of perturbation to him will be very acceptable . . .

“A peace was concluded with the Morattas the 1st of May.”<sup>(1)</sup>

“JOHN D'FRIES.”

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 289.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, June 27th, Fort St. George.—“Since mine of the 2nd February last . . . Lord Pigot, Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Jourdan, Captains Wood<sup>(2)</sup> and Thomson and one or two officers and doctors, with a battalion of seapoys and fifty European cavalry, and Moodu Kistnah, &c., set out from hence the 28th of March to Tonjore. And also his Lordship desired Chippermall Chitty, Sunca Rama Chitty and me from this place, and Irshepah Chitty and Sree Salupudy from Cuddalore to accompany him. We did accordingly, and we all, in company with his Lordship, arrived at Tonjore the 8th April, and the ceremony at the time of the restoration of the Rajah is wrote in a separte paper and enclosed herein. And by what I heard and saw, the poor Rajah has been treated very ill by the Nabob's people taking every thing from him, and left him in a small place in his palace, and he had only one turband and no coat to put on, or any kind of jewells or any household furniture. They hardly left the copper potts and things commonly used in their necessary affairs, and also took away every kind of jewells from the Rajah's women, and left them with black beads on their necks, and with very few clouts and very poor allowance daily given them. He could hardly maintain his family and attendants. Several of his relations and people were kept close prisoners, and they were released after his Lordship's arrival there; but most of the people thanked the Nabob for keeping the King so long with life. That he would not have done if it were not

(1) An error for 1st March. Cf. No. 284, p. 273.

(2) Captain Robert Wood, Town Major of Fort St. George.

for his promise, when that place was taken by our forces, to the Governor and Council and General Smith. All which gave much concern to his Lordship and the rest of the gentlemen to see the Rajah in such miserable condition as the Nabob's people treated him, and his Lordship was so gracious as to buy a pullenkeen, a horse and a dagger, and presented them to the Rajah, and afterwards remained at Tonjore about 18 days . . .

"Comaroo, who was dubash to Mr. Hay<sup>(1)</sup> at Trichinopoly, and after Mr. Hay went home he served Mr. Benfield and acted in the saucar business; and I hear that he played several tricks with the Rajah and hurted the kingdom in several respects before the place was taken . . . And now he went, with his Lordship's leave, to Tonjore with us, and as soon as he got there, that very same night he went to the Rajah in the middle of the night and told him . . . as soon as he get the country to let him have the management, and that he will advance what money he wants . . . His Lordship was informed of it, and sent for the said Comaroo . . . and ordered him to receive 10 or twelve lashes, and told him to go about his business . . .

"I, in company with Chippermall Chitty and Irshepah Chitty . . . went to see Trichinopoly, Seerangam and Jemboo Kistnah, where I heard by the English gentlemen there that the Maravars of Ramanadapurum and Shivagunga are prisoners there, with very poor allowances given to them by the Nabob's people . . ."

The Nawab received private intelligence last September of the Company's intention to restore Tanjore. "Therefore he collected most of the revenues produced in that country as fast as he could, and afterwards gave Tanaca or draft to Mr. Benfield, Mr. Monckton and several other English gentlemen for a considerable sum, upwards of twenty lacks of pagodas . . . After the country was put under the Rajah's management . . . these gentlemen that lent the above sums to the Nabob represented their case to the Board and demanded Tanaca from the Rajah, for which the Governor and Council met in council several times, and have not brought it to a conclusion yet. But once seven Gentlemen in Council were of one side, and Lord Pigot, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Russell, Mr. Dalrymple and Mr. Stone on another side, that is seven against five. The Majority gave their opinion that the Tonjore Rajah must discharge all the Tanaca that was granted by the Nabob, and Lord Pigot and four Gentlemen in Council on the other side gave their opinion that the Rajah or the country of Tonjore had no thing to do with the Nabob's Tanaca, but the Nabob must be accountable for it . . . The Nabob may discharge the above Tanacas if he pleases, but he will not do it before the Company send out positive orders to him to do so. The Nabob's intention is to ruin the Rajah again, though the country was delivered up to

(1) James Hay. *Vide* No. 230, p. 235, note 2.



him . . . , but the poor Rajah has no other aid and assistance, but intirely depends on your honour's and the Company's protection.

"Mr. Dawson resigned the service . . . Mr. Monckton has married Lord Pigot's eldest daughter<sup>(1)</sup> March last. Lord Pigot carries on his government with much civility . . . There was a peace concluded between our Government of Bombay and the great Marattas, and every thing settled in our favour . . ."

"CHOCAPAH."

[*Autograph original, 3½ pp., flscp., and duplicate, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[*Enclosure*]. "Tonjore, 11th April, 1776.

"It is the Right Honourable Lord Pigot's orders that the following Proclamation, this day made publick on the restoration of the Rajah to the Musnud, be read at the head of each corps and explained the seapoys of the different battalions at 7 o'clock."

"By Order. (Signed) ROBERT WOOD, Aid de Camp."

[*Proclamation.*]

"The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President of the Council for affairs of the East India Company on the Coast of Choromandal, and Governor of Fort St. George, &c., to all whom it may concern.

"Whereas a Treaty was concluded in 1762 between the Nabob of the Carnatick and the Rajah of Tonjore, to which Treaty the English became guarantee, and whereas, in direct violation of the above Treaty, the troops of the East India Company, at the instigation of the said Nabob, did remove the Rajah from his government: the East India Company, disapproving the conduct of their servants, have thought proper to require that the Rajah be again restored. And in virtue of the orders of the said Company all officers, civil and military, and all persons under the protection of the said Company are hereby required to consider the Rajah of Tonjore as again restored to the government of his country in the full extent of that government as at the conclusion of the Treaty in 1762, and to give him all proper aid and assistance. Dated in Tonjore the 11th day of April, 1776."

"(Signed) PIGOT."

"The Rajah made his appearance a quarter before three in the afternoon. On his appearance on the parade he was saluted with 21 guns, and then was carried round the capital streets accompanied by the troop of cavalry, the Grandier Company [of] Europeans, the Artillary two guns, and six companys of Grandier Seapoys, His Lordship, &c. On the Rajah's return he went round the square, [and] was saluted by all the officers as he went round. On his going in[to the] Palace a second [salute] and three volleys of small arms by [the] whole

(1) Sophia Pigot.

[of the] troops. And at 8 o'clock at night the Rajah, in company with his Lordship, Messrs. Dalrymple, Jourdan, Benfield and Chambers,<sup>(1)</sup> Colonel Harper,<sup>(2)</sup> Captains Wood and Thomson set at the Cuchery<sup>(3)</sup> and read the above proclamation in Maratty language in the presence of all the Madrass Merchants and the people of that place; and then all the Madrass Merchants went with his Lordship, named Moodu Kistnah, Chippermall Chitty, Chocapah Chitty, Sunca Ramy Chitty, Arnachella Chitty, Gandavady Suby Chitty, Bugavan Puntuloo and Ballumoodu Chitty; and Sree Salupuddy and Irshepah Chitty of [the] Cuddalore Merchants—they all paid their respects to the Rajah with the usual Nuzar<sup>(4)</sup> of few pagodas and few gold mohurs, and received beetlenut and roeswater [*sic*] as customary. Thus ended the ceromoney."

[2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 290.]

EDMUND VEALE LANE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, July 11th, Tannah.—“ You will, long ere this reaches you, have the news and particulars of the dishonorable and wretched Treaty<sup>(5)</sup> concluded by the Supreme Council's Plenipo with the Ministerial Party of the Marrattahs, by which we have violated the national honor and made our faith justly doubted by every Prince in India; and, what is more immediately felt by the Company, all our acquisitions . . . are given up. Out of the whole there is only reserved about Broach a territory of three lacks annually, and the islands of Salsette and Caranjar.<sup>(6)</sup> There surely was never ought so fatal to this Settlement, for besides the great loss in returning a rich tract of country, we are at this time forced to be nearly at the same expense as we were when there was war, for the wretches with whom this notable treaty was made neither seem to be inclined, or appear to be able, to fullfill their engagements, none of their officers scarce obeying their orders.

“ As they are disunited among themselves, and attacked from without by Hyder Ally, and likewise have, in many parts of the dominions they have left, a number of civil broils to engage their attention, therefore it is quite a doubt if the peace will last, or even those who made it will be there to answer for it, as lately one of the Peshwah family, who for a long while managed the Morattah government under Nannah,<sup>(7)</sup> by name

(1) William Chambers. *Vide* No. 263, p. 258, note 3.

(2) Lt.-Col. Humphrey Harper, Madras Infantry. *Vide* No. 270, p. 264, note 5.

(3) *Cuchery, culcherry*, from Hind. *kachahri*, office of administration, court-house.

(4) *Nuzar*, from Pers. *nazar*, a complimentary present.

(5) The Treaty of Purandhar.

(6) Karanja, on the east side of Bombay harbour.

(7) *Nannah*, *Nana*, the appellation of the Peshwa, the chief minister of the Raja, and the virtual ruler. The office of Peshwa was held, at the time referred to, by Bālāji Bāji Rāo (1740—1761).

Sudabah,<sup>(1)</sup> who, having lost a battle in Hindostan about the year 1759 against the Abdallahs,<sup>(2)</sup> and being wounded and taken, underwent a severe and long captivity; but at last gaining his liberty, returned to Poonah nine years ago, where by the means of the people now at the head of affairs at that Durbar, he was treated as an impostor, loaded with irons and confined in a fort. But the confusion caused by the intestine disputes of the Marrattahs has at last given an opportunity to Sudabah's friends to effect his release, and he is now at the head of between 15 and 20 thousand men. He pretends to be an enemy to none, but only a well wisher to the Peshwah family, of which he is one. It is, however, believed he is not very sincere in the former, and that he will get the better of the Ministry, which should he do, as Ragonath Row and him were always the best of friends, it is generally thought the latter (who is now left destitute on a trifling allowance from the Company) will get a share in the government, if the child,<sup>(3)</sup> as the Ministerial Party pretend, be really the late Prince's; and on the contrary, if an impostor, it is impossible to say how it will go, for the throne of so large an empire is too great a temptation to be lightly given up. Time therefore can only determine it.

"However, at any rate the Company are great sufferers by the pacifick inclinations of the Supreme [Government], for though there is a peace concluded, we in no shape benefit by it, but, as I before observed, labour under every disadvantage of a war, though without the advantage of it . . ."

[*Holograph*, 7 pp., 4to.]

"EDMUND VEALE LANE."

[*Enclosure*]. Letter, dated 4th June, from Mr. Griffith, Attorney for Mr. Boddam, to E. V. Lane about remitting to England the amount of Lane's debt to Robert Palk.

[No. 291.]

LIEUT. J. SNELLING to ROB[ER]T PALK, Esqr., near Exeter.

1776, July 13th, Chicacole.—I beg to be favoured with letters of recommendation to influential persons at Madras, such as Mr. Jourdan and Mr. Claud Russell, in view to my being appointed to a regiment as Quartermaster or Adjutant, or to the command of an outpost. Lieutenants are now in a worse position than Ensigns were formerly, owing to the withdrawal of half-batta.

[*Holograph*, 3 pp., 4to.]

"J. SNELLING."

(1) Sudashoo Chinnaji, known as Sudaba, a famous chief and a cousin of Raghoba, was second in command of the Marāthas at the battle of Pānipat in 1761, when he was reported missing. The man calling himself Sudaba who appeared three years later was an impostor. After long imprisonment this person escaped in April, 1776, gained credence of a large following, collected an army, secured possession of the Konkan, and was countenanced by the Government of Bombay. In October he was routed, and yielded himself to Raghoji Angria. The latter delivered him to the ministers at Poona, who put him to death.

(2) The Abdālīs were Afghans, who fought under Ahmad Shah Abdālī at the battle of Pānipat.

(3) The alleged posthumous son of the murdered Peshwa Narāyan Rāo.



[No. 292.]

LIEUT. JOHN YARDE<sup>(1)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1776, August 16th, Barhampore.—All military appointments are now in the hands of the General, who is unfavourable to officers recommended to Mr. Hastings. I am now nearing promotion to Captain. “Nothing material has happened since I wrote you last, but we are in hopes, *if things take a change*, that we shall have a Maharatta war, which will make the army all alive again . . .”

[Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.]

“JOHN YARDE.”

[No. 293.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, August 30th, Fort St. George.—“I heard from Mr. Palk at Bengall under date the third instant . . . Colonel Monson was very ill. The Vizier’s troops having mutinied for want of pay, and some of our officers having been lent him for the discipline of those troops, it is said some five or six of them suffered on the occasion. After some time had elapsed . . . two battalions of our seapoys had a warm skirmish, or rather a pitched action, with eight or ten battalions of the Vizier’s, in which the latter were worsted and suffered a good deal. The commanding officer of our troops has been called down to Calcutta to account either for fighting against orders or without them . . . This must not alarm Mr. Kennaway for his sons: I have heard from them both since this happened.

“The Supreme Council have concluded a Treaty with the Ministerial Party at Poonah, by which Raganout Row is precluded from any share of the government, but allowed a jaghire for his support, though he himself does not accede to the terms. Since this treaty was concluded another chief,<sup>(2)</sup> who was supposed to be dead, has made his appearance. He is a man banished by a former faction, but now generally acknowledged as the next heir to the Poonah government. Those are the accounts from the other coast of about the beginning of this month, by which we are also told that Mr. Hornby<sup>(3)</sup> was then about dispatching a small packet (by the southern passage) to Suez for Europe. By this channel letters of the middle of May last arrived at Bombay on or about the 1st instant from England for Mr. Hastings, and were immediately forwarded from thence to Bengall, where they are probably ere now arrived . . .

“At our Presidency for the last few months there has been much to do. . . Lord Pigot arrived here on the ninth of last December to the, in appearance, very great satisfaction of the Settlement, and certainly to the *real satisfaction* of a very great majority of it. By pacifick though firm and determined

(1) John Yarde. *Vide* No. 51, p. 80, note 2.(2) Sudaba. *Cf.* No. 290, p. 281, note 1.

(3) William Hornby, Governor of Bombay.

measures he got the Nabob to withdraw his garrison from Tanjore, and to consent to the Company's placing one there themselves. This was done in last February. The remaining part of that month and all March was spent in prevailing on the Nabob to give the country up to the Rajah . . . About the end of March or the beginning of April Lord Pigot was deputed by the Board, and set out hence to execute the Company's orders as to the restoration of the Rajah to his throne and kingdom, and which was, I think, done on or about the 9th of April. Dalrymple and Jourdan accompanied him, but were not of the deputation. The business effected, his Lordship returned here about the end of April or the beginning of May, and . . . made his report to the Board. This . . . was received without any invidious remarks or publick disapprobation, but . . . soon after the cloud began to gather.

"A black man of this place, whose name is Comerah, and who was dubash to Mr. Hay while Paymaster at Thrichinopoly, had in that capacity been very usefull to that gentleman in the acquisition of a very competent fortune, and in the course of the business (being, though young, very acute) had gained great knowledge and influence in the Tanjore country. On Mr. Hay's going home, and after the capture of Tanjore, this man was sought for by many. Mr. Benfield afforded him the largest field of action, and under the auspices of, perhaps in conjunction with, Mr. Wynch, employed him in negotiating money matters in the Tanjore country to a vast amount; which, together with the countenance given him by the Nabob, . . . gave him in that country the consequence of a Basha.

"The Nabob, for prosecuting the siege of Tanjore and paying the prize money after it was taken, had borrowed of Benfield six lacks and seventy thousand pagodas, for the repayment of which he had assigned the produce of certain districts of that country; and this Comerah was employed there by Benfield to collect it. When it came under consideration to send a deputation for the restoration of the Rajah, Comerah was (by his master) called down . . . His Lordship desired him to stay till he himself went up. But as this neither suited his, his master's or the Nabob's purposes, he set off, got before, and, was found there when Lord Pigot arrived at Tanjore; which, with some remonstrances made against him by the Rajah, . . . tempted Lord Pigot in an unguarded moment to corporally punish him with twelve lashes in a publick manner. This furnished fuel for a future flame.

"The Nabob's manager of the Tanjore country being then at some distance from the capital, Lord Pigot conceived a notion of getting from him the account of the revenues, &c., received; and in order thereto sent a party of horse to secure either him or the accounts. But the man . . . set off for, and got within the confines of the Carnatick before he was overtaken, notwithstanding which, he or his accounts were seized. This

furnished the Nabob with a very specious pretext (perhaps a just one) for complaint, and of which he made the most by addressing the Board here and the Supreme Council at Bengall . . . in terms of strong resentment.

“The Nabob’s reception of Lord Pigot on his arrival was in appearance the most cordial and affectionate. One day, after Lord Pigot had breakfasted with him at an elegant table, the Nabob sent him the tea service of rich gold and silver plate that he had been entertained with ; which he, after some hesitation, and to preserve as far as might be a good understanding, accepted. By the best account I can get it was worth from three to five thousand pagodas. But the value has been much exaggerated, and Lord Pigot has been threatened by Benfield with a prosecution for venality . . .

“The Nabob . . . very artfully led on Lord Pigot by one finess or other from December to April to delay his departure for Tanjore till that period, with an intention . . . to collect, or permit his creditors to collect, in discharge of his debt what they could of the crop of grain . . . As the grain had been cut and stacked, it was marked with Mr. Benfield’s chop<sup>(1)</sup> and claimed as his property. About the time the Rajah was restored this grain was demanded of Lord Pigot by Benfield, but it seems the Rajah applied it to his own purpose. Benfield calls it a violent seizure of British property by Lord Pigot, and declares he shall be made by law to account to him for the whole. Lord Pigot says it was a transaction of the Rajah’s, and what he has nothing to say to.

“Here then is the bone of contention. Benfield and that part of the Council who support his cause say that this grain, assigned to his creditors by the Nabob, should have gone in discharge of his debt, but as it did not, the Rajah ought to be made to pay it. Lord Pigot and his party say ; —Let the Nabob produce his accounts . . . of the Tanjore country, and if there is any thing remains unpaid we consent that the Rajah of Tanjore be made to pay it ; but if the Nabob will not produce his accounts, let the whole be referred to the Company, and wait their determination. This Benfield and his party will not agree to . . .

“After much warm debate. . . . Benfield’s (or if you please Sir Robert’s)<sup>(2)</sup> party carried their point of sending Colonel Stuart<sup>(3)</sup> to command at Tanjore . . . to assist them there in recovering this money from the Rajah. Next, the scale turned the other way, and Lord Pigot’s party got Russell appointed Resident there, he being the man they wished to be with the King. A few days only elapsed when Russell was, in con-

(1) *Chop*, stamp, die : from Hind. *chhapma*, to print.

(2) Brig.-General Sir Robert Fletcher, commanding the Madras Army. *Vide* No. 141, p. 163, note 2.

(3) Colonel James Stuart, after 29 years’ service in the British Army, was appointed by the Company to be second in command at Fort St. George, where he arrived in May, 1776. He had seen active service in Nova Scotia in 1758, and subsequently in the West Indies.



sequence of the Company's orders, directed to go on the circuit. Now things grew serious . . . Sir Robert's party was the Majority (though, as he was ill, he did not always attend Council) and orders were drawn out for Colonel Stuart to proceed to Tanjore. They lay on the table ready for signing, but the President would not sign them. After much altercation the Secretary<sup>(1)</sup> was (by Sir Robert's party, who was the Majority) directed to sign them *for the President*. But the Secretary did not think it safe to do so without a written order. An order for that purpose was accordingly drawn out, and Stratton and Brooke having signed it (as the rest of the Majority were going to do) Lord Pigot desired to see the paper before Brooke had (as he was in the very act of doing) given it to Floyer; and having thus received it, drew another paper out of his pocket containing a charge against Brooke and Stratton for signing such an order without the President's . . . consent, and immediately moved that they should be suspended the service for it; which they accordingly were by Lord Pigot's casting voice. Sir Robert, being ill, was not present.

" This transaction happened late in the afternoon of the 22nd of this month of August. The Council broke up immediately, and Sir Robert's party met at his house on Choultry Plain<sup>(2)</sup> that evening, where they stayed till midnight; then retired, and met at five next morning. Lord Pigot summoned a Council for that forenoon . . . but left Stratton and Brooke out of the summons. Lord Pigot's party met accordingly. . . The other party did not come, but about noon sent a Notary Publick with a strong protest against the expulsion of Stratton and Brooke . . . , declared the nullity of Lord Pigot's and the Minority's powers, and asserted that the Government rested in them, the Majority . . . The party, or Council if you please, broke up with an intention to consider of the matter till Monday the 26th. But while they were at dinner a letter was brought to Lord Pigot by a gentleman who had received it from Sir Robert's party, charging him as a Company's servant not to regard any orders of the Minority, as the Government was regularly vested in them the Majority, and that they expected his obedience. This induced Lord Pigot's party to assemble in Council again after dinner. While they were there the officer of the Main Guard brought in another letter to the same purport addressed to him *as such*. And soon after it was known that similar letters had been circulated to all in office, civil and military. This Lord Pigot, &c., considered as sowing sedition and tending to raise a mutiny in the garrison; and then on that ground (Sir Robert being first put in arrest by Lord Pigot, &c.) they suspended the whole of his party. This last transaction happened on the 23rd in the evening.

(1) Richard Joseph Sullivan. *Vide* No. 19, p. 29, note 3.

(2) Choultry Plain extended for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles S.W. of Fort St. George towards the Mount, and was the principal residential locality of the period. It was so called from a Choultry on the main road  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the Fort.

“ On Sir Robert being put under arrest by Lord Pigot, &c., they offered the command of the Army to Colonel Stuart (as I believe the other party did also . . .). Stuart desired a little time to consider of it. In the evening of the 23rd he accepted of the command from Lord Pigot, &c. . . . and came to breakfast with him at the Gardens, where I happened to be also. After breakfast Lord Pigot and Stuart withdrew and had some conversation together, but they parted soon, and some time after met again in the Council Room. After which they with others dined together, and I think went to Council again after dinner, where they sat till the evening. On breaking up Lord Pigot desired Stuart to sup with him at the Gardens, which the other readily accepted, but said he was at a loss for a conveyance, as his servants had disappointed him of his carriage. Stone told him his was at Stuart’s service, but he declined it and said as his Lordship was going out himself he begged leave to accompany him. Pigot gladly accepted of his company. They set off together about  $\frac{1}{2}$  past seven in the evening. In passing over the Island, Captain Lysaght<sup>(1)</sup> stepped up from the side of the road and stopped the carriage with a pistol in his hand, and told Lord Pigot he was his, Lysaght’s, prisoner. At the same instant came up Captain Edington<sup>(2)</sup> with a party of seapoys to support Lysaght. Then Stuart told Pigot in those words to Get out, get out. Pigot said (speaking to Stuart), You have deceived me. They then put him into a close chaise, prepared and at hand for the purpose, and Lysaght, attended by an orderly, set off full speed with him. He asked where they meant to carry him. They said, To the Mount ; which they accordingly did, and delivered him to Major Horne,<sup>(3)</sup> then in cantonment there with about 2 or 3 hundred artillery. This happened in the evening of the 24th August.

“ The principal officers of the garrison had their Que. Stuart returned to them immediately, and his Council, if I may call it such, was into Town and in the Council Room immediately after him. The military were told [that], Sir Robert being ill, Stuart commanded ; and he with his dependants very luckily preserved such order as to prevent any blood being shed.

“ All the members of the Council slept in the Council Room that night, and the next morning, vizt. the 25th August, a paper was circulated informing the publick that the then Government desired the Company’s civil and military servants, as well as the inhabitants in general, to attend at the Council Room at 11 that day ; which being accordingly done by most, a proclamation was read to them and afterwards affixed at the Seagate, setting forth the reasons for the measures which had been taken ; and Mr. Stratton, after having been thus proclaimed Governor of Fort St. George and President of the Council,

(1) Captain Arthur Lysaght commanded a Sepoy battalion. Brother of the first Lord Lisle, he married in 1776 Martha, daughter of Mr. John Pybus.

(2) Lt.-Colonel James Edington was the Adjutant-General.

(3) Major Matthew Horne, commanding the Artillery.

and saluted with nineteen guns on the occasion, stood ready to receive the compliments *of more* than he found disposed to bestow them.

"The military however (it being a work of their own) together with the principal black and Armenian merchants . . . paid their devoirs, but a remarkable backwardness appeared in the bulk of the civil servants . . . Some few officers, whose approbation of the Revolution was doubtfull, were ordered to the out garrisons.

"The Gentlemen now in power being, however, fearfull of some attempt being made to wrest the government out of their hands in favor of Lord Pigot, sent a party privately to the Mount under the command of Captain Edington, at midnight between the 27th and 28th instant, to remove his Lordship's person elsewhere, but to what place they would not then say (though they have since declared it to be Chingleput). This unreasonable and unexpected measure much surprised Lord Pigot and alarmed his friends, who put the worst construction on it. Edington, by virtue of a written order, peremptorily demanded his person of Major Horne, and Horne as peremptorily insisted for a time on Lord Pigot yielding himself up to Edington : but he as positively asserted he would not do so, and declared they should not take him away alive.

"On this the Artillery (some two or three hundred in number) then in cantonment there were put under arms, and called on to do their duty ; but Pigot harangued them on the occasion, told them that he and he only was their lawful Governor, that his person had been violently seized without a reason, that he was then in secure confinement under them and not possible for him, if he was so disposed, to escape, and on that account there could be no reason for his removal at such an hour, in such a way, to be carryed he knew not where, and for purposes which he feared could not be good. Horne called again on the men to do their duty, told them he was their officer, and asked if they would not obey him. Notwithstanding which they stood stock still under arms and perfectly mute. Horne and Edington, haveing thus much reason to apprehend the defection of those troops, dropped the design, and so it ended.

"September 10th. On the 31st August Lord Pigot applied by his friends to the Mayor's Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus." After some deliberation the Court decided it had power to grant the writ, but an adjournment took place on formal grounds and when the Court assembled again on the 2nd September the previous decision was reversed. "And thus that affair ended."

Prior to the subversion of the Government reports of the Board's proceedings and disputes had been sent to the Supreme Council. Sir Robert Fletcher was in correspondence with General Clavering, but no private representations were made on behalf of Lord Pigot's party. "Answers to the whole



detail of what was sent previous to the Revolution have been received from the Supreme [Government] condemning in general Lord Pigot's measures, more especially those at Tanjore, and particularly his seizure of the Nabob's agent within the confines of the Carnatick. No answers are yet received to the accounts sent of the Revolution. They cannot well be expected till towards the end of this month . . .

"September 21st . . . The *Swallow*, sloop of war, is to sail the 30th instant with accounts of the Revolution to Suez; Dalrymple<sup>(1)</sup> on one part and Colonel Capper<sup>(2)</sup> on behalf of the other go on her . . ."

"GEORGE BAKER."

"P.S.—October 8th. On the 6th instant the Administration here received publick letters from the Supreme [Council] at Calcutta, acknowledging the receipt of the letter containing the account of the late Revolution here: of which they give their full approbation, and promise to support them in their government. Thus this matter now stands. What measures will be taken on your side the water time will unfold. The *Swallow's* departure was postponed, but she is now to sail for Suez on the 10th instant. . ."

"G. BAKER."

[*Autograph*, 15½ pp., fscp. *The grosser errors in spelling made by Baker's amanuensis have been corrected.*]

[No. 294.]

RICHARD WELLAND to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., Bruton Street, London.

1776, September 6th, Ship *Salisbury*, Madrass Roads.—  
"Honoured Uncle, . . . We are just come from Bombay and we expect to go to Masulapatam soon. I have done sc[h]ool now, and I do duty on the quarterdeck as Midshipman. Mr. Adams is dead, and I heard he died wo[r]th 80 thousand pounds. Sir Edward Hughes behaves very well to me; likewise Mr. Baker, for I go ashore very often, and he sends me [plenty] of fruit every Sunday. I am glad brother Robert has made choise of the army. All my cousins in India are well. The governor of Madrass suspen[d]ed some of the Council for private correspondence with the Nabob. The Council tooke him the next morning out of his chariot, and put him in prison at the Mount, and suspen[d]ed him and Mr. Stone and several others, and Mr. Striatly<sup>(3)</sup> [*sic*] is mad[e] gove[r]ner. All the Company's ships saluted him with 19 guns, and the Fort saluted us with 15 guns, and we returned the same number . . .

"Your affectionate and ever dutiful nephew,

"RICHARD WELLAND."

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to. *Wax seal with monogram.*]

(1) Alexander Dalrymple. *Vide* No. 263, p. 257, note 2.

(2) James Capper, a civilian, was appointed by the Directors in 1773 to be Commissary General, Madras, with the relative rank of Colonel.

(3) George Stratton.

[No. 295.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, September 15th, Fort St. George.—Received 21st April, 1777.—Since I wrote to you on the 27th June<sup>(1)</sup> a revolution has occurred here. The Nawab, forgetting that he owes his position as ruler of the Carnatic to Lord Pigot during the latter's first administration, has lately supported those who are hostile to the Governor. The Nawab and his sons instigated the Majority in the Council to vote against the appointment of Mr. Russell to Tanjore, and to require that gentleman to accompany the Circuit Committee to the Northern Circars.

On the 22nd August, after Lord Pigot had suspended Messrs. Stratton and Brooke for inciting the Secretary to commit an unlawful act, the Majority, consisting of Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, and Messrs. Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, joined (with the exception of Sir Robert, who was ill) Messrs. Benfield and Macpherson and the two sons of the Nawab at night at Mr. Benfield's garden house, where they received communications from the Nawab. Next morning all, except the Nawab's sons, met at Sir Robert Fletcher's garden, where the Majority resolved to assume the Government, and sent out notices to that effect. On receipt of the notice Lord Pigot suspended the Majority members and appointed Colonel Stuart Commander-in-Chief. Colonel Stuart, after repeatedly enjoying his Lordship's hospitality, drove with the Governor on the evening of the 24th from the Fort towards the Company's Garden, having previously arranged with Benfield, Macpherson and others that the carriage should be stopped by Colonel Edington and Captain Lysaght, supported by an armed party of sepoys and Nawab's troops. The two officers emerged from the shadows of the avenue of trees on the Island, and presenting pistols, halted the chaise. Colonel Stuart forced Lord Pigot to enter Mr. Benfield's carriage, which was in waiting, and despatched him a prisoner to the Mount, where he was placed in the custody of Major Horne. The Majority immediately went to the Fort, and next morning issued orders to "all the military and civil servants of the Company and white and black inhabitants of Madrasspatnam to give them their attendance at the Fort Square at 11 o'clock in that morning, and to hear the proclamation they drew out themselves in the names of his Majesty, [the] English nation and the East India Company. . . . On the 26th the Nabob and his two sons with great pomp came to the Fort to give his visit to Mr. Stratton, and the 27th Mr. Stratton went to the Nabob with great pomp, where he was received very handsomely . . . "

On the 28th at midnight Colonel Edington went to the Mount to remove Lord Pigot to Gingee, but through the action of Major Horne and Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple and Monekton

(1) No. 289, p. 277.

the intention was not executed. "Mr. Russell came down to Sir Edward Hughes at St. Thomé at three in the morning, and got him out of his bed and acquainted him. . . . Sir Edward Hughes immediately came to the Fort, and spoke to Mr. Stratton and the rest of the Gentlemen at 4 o'clock in the morning," and induced them to promise that no further attempt to remove Lord Pigot would be made. Most of the civil servants have refused to recognize any Governor but Lord Pigot, and all the native inhabitants are profoundly grieved and depressed. Many of the military officers have no sympathy with the revolution. We are in hopes that such gentlemen as yourself, Mr. Du Pré and Mr. Call will return to India to put matters right.

"I used to get my letters corrected by somebody else before, but I [am] now afraid to shew this letter to any one here, and therefore I wrote it myself as well as I can, and request you will please to excuse me the errors and broken English wrote in this letter . . ."

"CHOCAPAH."

[*Holograph*, 6 pp., 4to.]

[No. 296.]

H[ENRY] VANSITTART, jun., to [ROBERT PALK, Esqr.].

1776, September 18th, Calcutta.—"I have received your favors of the 14th December, 1775, and 7th January, 1776. If I should ever prove an honor to my name, I shall attribute it to my good fortune in meeting with friends who have suggested its importance and animated my pursuit . . . It gives me uneasiness that I should transmit memorials of myself to my friends in an uncouth form, and hope that my future performances will not be liable to such exception. The friend at whose instance you imparted the counsel being unknown, I can only thank him through you for his kind attention . . ."

"H. VANSITTART."

[*Holograph*, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  p., *flscp.*]

[No. 297.]

GEORGE SMITH to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, September 20th, Fort St. George.—"How great must be your surprise on receipt of this to know that a revolution has taken place in our Government, that Lord Pigot is a prisoner under a military guard at the Mount, and George Stratton in the chair of Government. To enumerate the circumstances which have led to this change would be to swell this beyond the limits of a letter. I must therefore refer you to the India House and to the public papers for the detail. In order, however, to gratify your curiosity thus raised by me, I will here inform you of a few uncontrovertable facts, which will guide you to the source of this event,



“The present Administration accuse Lord Pigot with despotism, arbitrary power, an intention to subvert the constitution of Government, and with the receipt of presents. These are the summary of the accusations against him, which, if true, would scarcely justify the measures which have been adopted; but, being false, how much more culpable are the men who have seized on his Government and person! If opposition to a venal faction in his Council, and putting a negative on resolves formed on injustice and self-interest; if a strict observance of the interest and honour of the Company, and a punctual regard to their instructions and orders can be termed despotic and arbitrary measures tending to the subversion of the Constitution, then is my Lord guilty of the charge against him; if not, he is innocent. Of these charges I most readily acquit him. Effects but too evidently demonstrate the cause of this revolution; self interest is the source and spring of it—Tanjore loans and money from the Nabob to load the Rajah with the payment of these moneys—this the true, the undoubted cause. You know me, and I tell you that I am totally disinterested in my representation; and to convince you that I am so, I need only tell you that I have a Tanka for pearls, which I last year sold the Nabob, . . . on Tanjore, unpaid, to the amount of Pags. 31,500, which is a large sum to me, and for which I could now get an order on the Rajah by an application to the present Administration . . . In regard to the information of presents, from whom do they [*sic*] come? From the declared foes of Lord Pigot—Benfield and his man Comaroo. . . . Benfield’s enmity against Lord Pigot is incredible: he has said such things to me of him that I could not have believed if he had not told me them himself.

“Since the revolution the sentiments of the Supreme Council on the conduct of my Lord Pigot towards the Nabob have come to hand. These give great hopes to the present Administration that their measures in regard to him will also be approved. These resolves you will see. Untill you do, and know circumstances, please to suspend your opinion, for I will take upon me to say that they are crude, indigested and malignant . . .

“Bob Munro,<sup>(1)</sup> considering the present Administration illegal, has had the honesty and fortitude to say so in a letter to them, jointly with 37 other civil servants, and . . . thinking he could no otherways address Mr. Stratton than as ‘stiling himself President and Governor of Fort St. George’, has for this address been suspended the service. The smalness of the crime, the friendship which you had for his father . . . will, I hope, be incentives with you to aid his other friends in getting him reinstated . . .

“In regard to Randall’s plot of assassination<sup>(2)</sup>; the orders

(1) Robert Duncan Munro. *Vide* No. 33, p. 55, note 2.

(2) William Randall, late Captain in the Nawab’s army, was alleged to have plotted with the Nawab’s second son, Amir-ul-Umarā, to poison Lord Pigot.

of these gentlemen to Major Horn[e] ‘That in case a rescue was attempted, as the last resource his Lordship’s life must answer for it, and this you are to signify to him’; and Colonel Edington’s attempt to take him from Horn[e] in the dead of night, are horrible things. The two last bear hard on the new Powers, and resemble much the seven Tyrants of Syracuse. As to the first, every person will judge for himself. I know Omer al Omrah to be a bad man, and I can figure to myself what a bad man is capable of doing . . .”

“GEORGE SMITH.”

[*Holograph*, 8 pp., 4to.]

[No. 298.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, September 20th, Fort St. George.—I advise the despatch per *Grenville* of “one box containing six small jarrs of limons and chillies pickles,” of which I beg your acceptance.

“CHOCAPAH.”

[*Autograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 299.]

JOHN D’FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, September 21st, Madras.—“We have had an instance lately of the dispatch with which advices may be sent from Europe to India by forwarding the letters to Grand Cairo directly, and from thence over the Isthmus of Suez, where vessels may be stationed to fetch them away to India. A private packet for Mr. Hastings of the 20th May from London, with letters from Mr. Graham at Marseilles of 3rd June, was received at Calcutta the 15th August, and we had extracts of it here from Bengal, come overland, the 7th instant . . . Colonel Monson has been very ailing lately . . . Lady Monson<sup>(1)</sup> dyed some months since.

“The arrival of the present packet from India will fill you all with much surprize as well as serious concern . . . at the unfortunate lengths to which the animosities and dissensions in Council have been carried, and the violent end it is brought to by the arrest of Lord Pigot, who is now a prisoner at the Mount, and the gentlemen who sided with him in Council, Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple, Stone and Latham<sup>(2)</sup>, being suspended. I enclose you cyps of several of the proceedings which were made publick . . . I shall avoid all reflections, but only observe that extremities of this nature must prejudice the Government very much and reduce its dignity and consequence, more so with the Asiatics, whose notion of a Chief Magistrate or the Government of a single person is congenial

(1) Colonel the Hon. George Monson, married Lady Anne Vane, daughter of the Earl of Darlington.

(2) Richard Latham, Chief at Cuddalore, sat in Council when at Madras. He was a civil servant of 1756.

to them. The Nabob with reason seems to be sorry for what has happened, as I told him that it was out of his power to prevent suspicions being entertained of his having had some hand in all that is come to pass . . .

“ You will perceive by the resolutions of the Supreme Council of the 7th August last that they disapproved entirely of most part of Lord Pigot’s conduct towards the Nabob, whom they declare they were determined to protect in his just rights. The present Administration waits to hear from Bengal regarding the last act . . . I may aver for truth to you that if Lord Pigot had been less violent, and more moderate and attentive to the great interest the Settlement had in the Tanjore country from the Tanakaws and orders for money granted by the Nabob to individuals, much of what has happened may have been prevented, for it was certainly the interest of private individuals that increased the opposition . . .

“ It will be strongly urged by those that do not favor the Nabob’s cause that he should not be permit[t]ed to reside here, as it gives him a convenient opportunity to form partys in Council, &c. . . . The advantages to this Settlement since his constant residence here for the last ten years are very great and visible, both in the considerable increase of inhabitants, near a third more than before, as well as of the trade and benefits reaped by them by the great consumption of many articles of use and ornament for the Nabob’s family and court. But in a political sense also the Nabob should be kept here in preference to any distant place, as we can watch better over his actions . . . A great deal has been said about the Nabob’s aiming at independance, and his great force, &c. The first will never be attained by him but by a weak Administration on our part suffering him to do so. He certainly had a numerous rabble, and has still too many useless people that occasions to him a great but unnecessary expence. When our Government is on good terms with the Nabob, he may be easily prevailed upon to regulate many things, but when both sides are in an ill humour it is no time for reforming abuses. It is of the most important consequence to the Company that a sincere harmony and good understanding should subsist between their Government here and the Nabob . . .

“ During these political contests many things have been said of presents received on both sides. His Lordship was accused also of a large sum received from the Nabob since his arrival.

“ Mr. Adams<sup>(1)</sup> dyed lately with a sudden attack of an apoplectick fit. He remained speechless for two days before he expired. He has left upwards of fifty thousand £. . . . The Mayor’s Court are going to petition the King for power to grant writ of Habeas Corpus, which will be a great security to the subject, and a very necessary power to the Court here. It is the commonly received opinion here that Sir Edward

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(1) Reynold Adams. *Vide* No. 112, p. 141, note 1.



Hughes has not behaved the most steadily in this business from the rank he holds. . . .

"I beg once more you will think of establishing—that is, propose to the Company for doing it—a communication to India through Grand Cairo and Suez, which may be accomplished at very little expence by appointing an English merchant at Cairo as their agent to forward the letters to Suez, where a small vessell from Bengal or Bombay should be constantly kept, relieving each other, to fetch away the packet to India . . . The Company entertains vessells enough at Bengal and Bombay to be employed in this service without putting them to any additional expence, and by this means we may have intelligence through that channel at least four times a year . . . If you should have occasion to write us that way, please to recom[m]end your letters to Mr. George Baldwin,<sup>(1)</sup> merchant at Grand Cairo, who corresponds with us . . .

"The Nabob has lately shewn some kindness to Mrs. Vansittart; indeed his disposition towards all the family is very friendly. It is much to be regret[t]ed that he will not attend to the regulation of his finances, which are ever anticipated, and thereby it costs him an onerous interest. Benfield is gone to Tanjore to endeavor (it is supposed) at the recovery of his property there . . ."

"JOHN D'FRIES."

[*Autograph, 10½ pp., 4to.*]

[*Enclosures.*]

No. 1. 1776, August 22nd. Copy of order suspending George Stratton and Henry Brooke, and nominating Claud Russell to be Second of Council. Signed by the Secretary, R. J. Sullivan, by order of the Rt. Hon. President and Council.

Appended is an order that the honours due to the Second of Council shall be paid to Claud Russell. Signed by the Town Major, Capt. Robert Wood, by order of the Rt. Hon. the Governor.

No. 2. 1776, August 23rd. Copy of letter from George Stratton, Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan and George Mackay, constituting the Majority of Council, to the Rt. Hon. Lord Pigot, President, and Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple and John Maxwell Stone, constituting the Minority, stating that the Majority deem themselves the only legal representatives of the Company, and decline to obey a summons issued to some of them to attend a meeting of the Council on that day.

No. 3. 1776, August 23rd. Copy of order of arrest of Sir Robert Fletcher for being concerned in circulating letters tending to cause mutiny in the garrison. Also order of appointment

<sup>(1)</sup> In 1787 George Baldwin, H.M. Consul in Egypt, was appointed Company's agent at Cairo.

of Colonel James Stuart to command the army. Signed by the Secretary, R. J. Sullivan, by order of the Rt. Hon. President and Council.

No. 4. 1776, August 24th. Copy of proclamation by the Majority in the name of his Majesty and the English nation, setting forth the acts of the Minority, annulling their powers, and proclaiming George Stratton President of the Council. Signed by the Majority.

Appended is an extract from the Company's Standing Orders, providing that all questions in Council are to be decided by a majority of votes. Signed by the Secretary, R. J. Sullivan.

No. 5. 1776, August 25th. Copy of proceedings of George Stratton and Council, recording the arrest of Lord Pigot, the suspension of Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple and John Maxwell Stone, and the assumption by George Stratton of the office of President. Signed by the Majority.

Appended are orders appointing Colonel Stuart to command the army and garrison during the illness of Sir Robert Fletcher, nominating Captain Lysaght to be Town Major, and making certain transfers of officers.

No. 6. 1776, August 28th. Copy of resolution that the order of the Minority for the arrest of Sir Robert Fletcher be erased from the records. Signed by the Secretary, R. J. Sullivan, by order of the President and Council.

No. 7. N.D. [1776, August 31st]. Copy of Petition of George Lord Pigot to the Mayor's Court, setting forth the circumstances of his arrest on the 24th August, removal to the Mount, and delivery into the custody of Major Horne, part of whose orders were—"As the last resource in case of an attempt to rescue Lord Pigot, his life must answer for it." The Petition concludes thus:—"Your Petitioner therefore most humbly prays this Honorable Court that, taking into consideration the violent and felonious assault and capture of him the said George Lord Pigot by the said James Eidingtoun, the said Arthur Lysaght and the said James Stuart, as also the illegal detention of him the said George Lord Pigot at St. Thomas's Mount aforesaid by the said Matthew Horne, will be pleased to issue a Writ of *Habeas Corp[u]s ad faciendum, subjiciendum et recipiendum*, to do, submit and receive whatsoever the Judges of this Honorable Court shall consider in behalf of him the said George Lord Pigot."

No. 8. N.D. [1776, August 31st—September 2nd.]—Copy of letter from Justice S.C. Lemaistre<sup>(1)</sup> to Charles Oakeley, Secretary, Civil Department, expressing his opinion that the Mayor's Court has no power to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

[3 sheets, *flscp.*]

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(1) Justice Lemaistre, one of the judges of the Supreme Court of Bengal, chanced to be in Madras at this time.

[No. 300.]

MUDOO KISTNA to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, September 22nd.—Lord Pigot, on his arrival from England, began the settlement of Tanjore affairs, released the Rajah and placed a British garrison in the Fort. Subsequently he visited the district, accompanied by Messrs. Dalrymple and Jourdan and myself, and reinstated the King. These acts were naturally disagreeable to the Nawab. After the Governor's return to Madras disputes arose in Council, and Lord Pigot was arrested by the Majority and confined at St. Thomas's Mount. "It is the opinion of most people that Lord Pigot acted upon the principles of honor and virtue, and with a view of the Company's interest in every respect, and that his conduct was no ways to be blamed. However, he got into the present misfortune, which was lamented by the whole people in the country, because they knew him to be a person that [had] done them singular service by putting an end to the French troubles in the Carnatick during the late war and saving Madrass from their invasion.

"As soon as George Stratton, Esqr., took the Government upon himself, my son Choliapah (who acts in my room) went to see him. He then told him that he will send for him when he wanted, by which it is supposed that he listened to the calumnious stories of our enemys [and] took us for Lord Pigot's party . . . Narrain, our bitter enemy, became his head Dubash in the same manner as he was under Mr. Bouchier, and according to his usual custom is contriving mischiefs against us . . ."

"MUDOO KISTNA."

[Autograph, 4½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 301.]

H.H. the NAWAB WALAJAH to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, September 25th. Chepauk.—"I have received from you, my friend, three letters filled with friendship, and they arrived when my mind was filled with sorrow, and they gave great relief to my heart. I have seen your letter to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, and am much obliged to you for it, and I hope you will, as usual, give attention to settling my affairs in England. Though I could not but think that the order in regard to Tanjore was unjust, I would not oppose it, and hoped for redress; and Lord Pigot not only executed it, but did every thing in his power to destroy my rights and hurt my honor; and he shewed no consideration to a thirty five years' friendship with the Company and the English nation, but broke the peace of the Carnatick by acting contrary to his Majesty's guaranty. He endeavoured by every means to disgrace me, thinking to provoke me to some measure that would have given him a pretence to destroy me and my family;



but depending on the Company's friendship and justice, I gave him no opposition.

"His Lordship at last, through his own bad conduct, fell from his high station. I had no concern therein, and knew nothing of it 'till after it had happened. You will perceive the concern of my mind by the paper which I wrote to Governor Stratton on this subject the day after the affair happened, a copy of which I enclose you . . . The Council here, and the Governor General and Supreme Council of Bengal have disapproved of all his Lordship's conduct, as well in what regards my affairs as the Company's. Mr. Hastings, who is your friend and mine, wrote a letter to Sir Edward Hughes (an extract of which Colonel Maclean will show you) by which you will see how nearly your opinion and his agree . . .

"People may for their own interest raise what reports they please, but I am an unalterable friend to the Company and the English nation, and nothing will ever change me . . .

"What can I say more?"

"P.S. You told me many things which I now recollect, and two of them particularly. The first, that when the news of Lally's besieging Madrass reached England, the Directors then asked you (as you had then newly arrived from India) would Madrass stand or fall, and you answered that it would not fall whilst General Lawrence commanded there. I hope that you will positively assure them of a similar thing, which is that as long as I and my family exist in the Carnatick, we will never admit of the least diminution of our friendship with the Company and the English. Secondly, you told me that should the Government of Madrass do me any injury, I should not oppose them, but make my complaint to England. This advice has been of great use to me, and in all the injuries that Lord Pigot has heaped on me I made no opposition, but have made my representation to the Company in hopes of their justice . . ."

[*Autograph cipher, 4 pp., flscp.*]

[*Enclosure.*]"—"Translation of a letter from H.H. the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated 14 Rajib, 1190 Hegira, or 29th August, 1776.

"I have been favoured with your letter dated 25th August, 1776, in which you inform me that the unconstitutional, violent and illegal conduct of the late President, Lord Pigot, . . . has reduced the Majority of the Council . . . to put the said President into arrest . . . Your assurances to me in your letter of the friendship and protection of the Company made me very happy. As to the conduct of Lord Pigot and those gentlemen who supported him, it is unnecessary for me to say any more. The situation into which his Lordship has fallen in consequence of his own conduct awakes my remembrance of his former services, and makes me forget much of what has

lately past. It is sufficient that I made my representations by letter to him and to the Governor General. In these letters the King, the Parliament, the Company and the English nation will read my sufferings and the injuries which their honor has suffered in the treatment I have met with . . . As I have neither a right nor a disposition to interfere in your affairs, what can I say more than that I am ready with all my ability and force to unite with you in promoting the Company's interest and the welfare of the Carnatick ? . . . I am devoted by all means to the good and assistance of the English. With what happiness then do I rely on your declaration of your firm resolution to shew me every mark of attention, respect and support.

“What can I say more ? ”

[2½ pp., *flsep.*]

[No. 302.]

CHARLES FLOYER<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, September 25th, Fort St. George.—“The news now conveyed to England by His Majesty's sloop the *Swallow* to Suez, and from thence by land, are of so serious a nature as to require the immediate attention of the Court of Directors, the Court of Proprietors and of the Ministry itself. They relate solely to this Presidency, and must be deemed the more important as they contain matters for which no precedent can be traced amongst the Company's records.<sup>(2)</sup> In short, my dear Sir, the minion of the public, and the Governor, nominated in so distinguished a manner (Lord Pigot) by a Court of Proprietors, has proved the greatest tyrant you can possibly conceive, not only in his avowed principles of government, but in the most injurious, most oppressive and most illegal measures he has pursued in his attempts to subvert the constitutional rights of our nation and of the East India Company, and in making every thing subservient to his private interests in direct breach of his trust and of the positive orders of the Company. To enumerate a tenth part of the outrageous acts he has committed would require much more time than the present dispatch affords me: permit me therefore to refer you to my brother, whom I have desired to wait upon you with a particular relation of the most important parts of our transactions, by which you will perceive that the Majority of Council . . . has been reduced to the very disagreeable necessity of causing the person of Lord Pigot to be arrested, and of suspending Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple and Stone from the service . . .

“His Lordship's grand and favorite object was the restoration of the Rajah of Tanjore, and the rock on which he and his associates split. That his Lordship came to India at his

(1) *Vide* No. 84, p. 113, note 6.

(2) The subversion of Mr. Foxcroft's Government by Sir Edward Winter in 1665 presents points of resemblance.

advanced time of life merely to enforce the orders of the Company on that subject without having in view his private interest also I believe cannot be supposed even by his warmest friends. He had a most extensive field for the gratification of every wish. It was the restoring in his single person a King, dispossessed of his country and reduced to a state of oblivion and obscurity, to a throne. This was the man destined to look up to his restorer as his demi-god, and from whom alone he could expect the future blessings of this life. And in order to effect so favorite a point his Lordship . . . proceeded to Tanjore to execute singly the orders of the Company. Hence originated all the evils lately experienced . . . , as well from his conduct during and after his public transactions there as from his indecent behavior towards the Nabob, who was doomed to fall a victim to the support his Lordship had determined to give to the Rajah . . . If we very early conceived suspicions of his Lordship's self-interested motives . . . , the event must prove such suspicions were not groundless, for Mr. Benfield has addressed a letter to the Board . . . wherein he charges Lord Pigot with having received presents in plate, jewels and money to a very considerable amount from Indian Princes ; and that having obtained undoubted proofs thereof, he is determined to commence prosecutions against him for a breach of the late Act of Parliament. The charge, I fear, is too true ; and if public report is to be credited, the sum amounts to between three and four hundred thousand pounds.

“ In confidence to you, my dear Sir, . . . I shall now inform you of his Lordship's supposed plan, and which has, in my opinion, been so strongly corroborated by his late conduct . . . that I frankly confess I believe it to be true. The greatest part of the above enormous sum was to come from Tanjore. A Resident therefore . . . was to be appointed at the Rajah's Court, and that Resident insisted upon by his Lordship to be only his friend Mr. Russell, who was to marry the youngest Miss Pigot (a child of sixteen years of age) ; to have as large a fortune with her as had been given to Mr. Monckton with the eldest daughter (at least £20,000) ; to receive for his Lordship the ballance due to him from the Tanjore country ; to wait the departure of Messrs. Stratton and Brooke, who had determined to go to Europe . . . , when Mr. Russell becoming second of Council, his Lordship was to embark upon the very next ship for Europe, leaving the Government to his friend and son-in-law. The other son-in-law (Mr. Monckton, who has very handsomely availed himself of his relationship to a Governor) and his lady were to have accompanied the father to Europe. No bad plan, I think, for all the parties concerned. But unfortunately for them it has failed in all its points :—*Vide* the violent efforts of the Minority to send Russell to Tanjore ; the obstacles they threw in the way of . . . the Committee of Circuit . . . of which Committee Messrs. Russell and Dalrymple were nominated



members from home ; and the last violent effort attempted by Lord Pigot to suspend Messrs. Stratton and Brooke from the service, who were the only two members between Mr. Russell and the Chair."

The Majority having protested against this suspension as illegal, the Minority reassembled, suspended their remaining opponents, and appointed Colonel Stuart Commander-in-Chief. "We therefore did assert our rights as a Majority, and causing Lord Pigot to be arrested, we assumed the government of the Company's affairs on the day following (the 24th August), and suspended Lord Pigot from being President of the Council, and Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple, Stone and Lathom from the Company's service . . . The last named gentleman, although he had been arrived at Madrass twelve days before this happened, in his way to the Committee of Circuit, had never attended a single Council untill the day on which we were all suspended ; and finding he concurred in the unanimous resolutions of . . . the Minority . . . , we included him also in the list of suspended members . . .

"Of the rectitude of the cause I have been under the absolute necessity of espousing . . . I am under no apprehension . . . I am well aware that the circumstance of arresting Lord Pigot will be represented in the strongest colours by his friends at home, and that it will at first operate strongly in his favor, because it is an event for which there is no precedent abroad. But when, among the many other reasons assigned in the narrative to my brother, . . . as well as those more fully stated in our address to the Court of Directors, we consider . . . the very violent and uncontrollable disposition of Lord Pigot, who had so deep a stake, and his having a military commission as Commander-in-Chief of the military forces within the garrison of Fort St. George and the Black Town, I am led to hope those reasons will sufficiently evince the absolute necessity of arresting his person as a previous step to the Majority's resuming the Government . . . Had the Majority contented themselves with merely suspending his Lordship from the Government, an insurrection must have ensued . . . and the loss of many lives would certainly have been the consequence, and Lord Pigot's amongst them, for he never would have yielded to any power ; whereas by the measures which were taken not a man was seen under arms, and the Government was as peaceable and quiet from the day we resumed it as if nothing had happened, excepting a remonstrance which was signed and sent to us from some of the youngest civil servants of the Company, headed by his Lordship's son-in-law, Mr. Monekton, and two or three Senior Merchants . . .

"As for his Lordship, it is only the name of an arrest, for he is lodged in the house of Major Horne, who commands the artillery at the Mount and who has an order to treat him with all possible respect and attention. The houses at the Mount

are filled with his sons-in-law, his daughters and a tribe of his followers ; people of all denominations visiting him daily ; and he has the whole Mount for his range of exercise and amusement. He wishes, naturally enough, to return as Governor to his Fort, and has frequently declared to the troops that he would put himself at the head of them and march them into it.

“ This, my dear Sir, is in few words the real matter of fact. If you shall find I have acted upon fair, honest and constitutional grounds in my small attempts to crush tyranny and oppression, I hope I shall meet from the Company, from you and my other friends those tokens of approbation which alone can relieve my mind from the very great uneasiness I labor under . . .”

“ CHARLES FLOYER.”

[*Holograph, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.*]

[No. 303.]

SIR EDW[AR]D HUGHES to ROB[ERT] PALK, Esqr.

1776, September 26th, Madras. Received 28th April, 1777.—“ I was not only obliged to go last year to Bombay to dock and refitt, but it was the seat of business, and all India wished me there with the squadron to assist in reconciling their disputes with the Mharattas, which were terminated before I left again by a treaty concluded at Poonah between the Mharatta Ministers and that Presidency, for the effecting of which the presence of the squadron proved very usefull . . . I hope the measure will be approved at home, for I can assure you . . . that we took by much the weakest side.

“ Your nephew is a very clever lad, and has learned both practice and theory of his profession much as could be expected. He does the duty of midshipman now, and I flatter myself will do very well, though, as is the case with most young people, he is a little pickle, and [I] am obliged to look very sharp after him, which I will do for your sake. He [is] sometimes with Captain Baker on shore, but not too often : that would ruin all.

“ You might well be apprehensive of the orders brought out by Lord Pigot deeply affecting His Highness ; yet the Gentlemen at Bengal, to whom he has appealed, find most fault with the carrying them into execution, of the manner of which the Nabob loudly complains, as you will find. The consequence of that and other steps at the Board has brought about a strange revolution. The Gentlemen of what is said to be the Majority have possessed themselves of the Government, laid a restraint on Lord Pigot by seizing on the person of his Lordship and sending him to the Mount, where the Train of the Company is stationed, and his Lordship remains under the care of Major Horne. Both parties have appealed to me, both declaring they are the legal Government. The only line of conduct I thought my self qualified to take has been that of not pretending to determine that of which I am not a competent judge, but giving the assistance of the ships under my command where I see the

power is of carrying on the Company's service and benefit of the nation. They have also appealed to the Supreme Council, and their determination is eagerly expected . . .

"His Lordship claimed the protection of the King's colours, which [claim], from some circumstances that happened, I thought necessary to make of the Board, who did not think proper to part with his Lordship from under their authority; and so the matters stands, except his Lordship having farther offered for reason a design being formed to take away his life, but which has not gained any credit and said to have been in agitation nine months ago. If so, why was it not discovered before? . . .

"I am glad you assist Mr. Maclean. It is my opinion, had that gentleman been at home sooner, the orders respecting Tanjore had ne'er been obtained. A Company's garrison in the place and the country to remain with the Nabob is, in my opinion, most for the benefit of nation and Company, for I am sure he will ever remain their fast friend notwithstanding the many distresses daily, I may say, imposed on him. It is much to be lamented that no express or written treaty has ever been concluded between the Nabob and the Company. It has been recommended in the letters of last year from Bengal to the Court of Directors, but [it] is doubted whether it can be properly effected by that Government without their authority. But he will be firmly supported in his just rights, and effectually, till their orders can be received for the application of a lasting treaty. I see no fault to be found in giving up Tanjore to the Nabob. The servants of the Company should, in my opinion, have insisted on a Company's garrison, . . . though I believe nothing of his aiming at independancy: on the contrary, that it is the farthest from his thoughts.

"I expect to be relieved in May and to see you some time next year:—I think [by] Sir E. Vernon most likely. I shall then compleat four years absence, and Lady Hughes will agree with me that [is] long enough. I hope the troubles in America will be ended ere that. God knows 'tis dreadfull in every shape.

"Oh, I wish it was in my power to give your attorneys bills; but our wants for so few people are so few also, it makes it impossible. They tell me there is not much to remitt.

"I am, with best respects to Mrs. Palk and compliments to the Bretts,

"EDWD. HUGHES."

[*Holograph, 8 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 304.]

JOHN D'FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, September 26th, Madras.—"This is to inclose you the declaration of Captain Randall against the Nabob's son Amir ul Omrah, which at a distance must injure his character, more



particularly so as he bears an unfavorable one already in England. Captain Randall is a bad character, and little credit is given to his information here. No advices yet from Bengal since the revolution. I send you also Mr. Russell's declaration regarding himself of what passed on the 24th August . . .

"Several affidavits have been made within these two or three days which greatly invalidates Captain Randall."

"JOHN D'FRIES."

[*Autograph, 1 p., 4to. Duplicate.*]

[*Enclosures.* Besides Randall's declaration, two other affidavits have been found which appear to have been forwarded by d'Fries with this or a subsequent letter. Russell's declaration has not been traced.]

No. 1. 1776, September 15th. Copy of deposition before the Mayor by William Randall, now or late Captain in the service of the Nawab, and Aide de Camp to his son Amir-ul-Umarā. The latter frequently instigated deponent to murder Lord Pigot, and proposed to engage Benfield's dubash, Comaroo, to aid him. Deponent visited Comaroo, who was acquainted with the Prince's design. Amir-ul-Umarā has also pressed deponent to go to England and expose the weakness of character of his elder brother Umdat-ul-Umarā in view to the succession devolving on himself. Sworn before John Turing<sup>(1)</sup>, Mayor.

No. 2. 1776, September 21st.—Copy of deposition before the Mayor by Samuel Mills, late Lieutenant in the service of Amir-ul-Umarā. William Randall told deponent, with whom he lived, that he had a plan for making his fortune. He wrote a paper, which he took first to Lord Pigot at the Mount, then to the Mayor, and afterwards showed to deponent. Subsequently Randall received letters and money from Mr. Monekton. Sworn before John Turing, Mayor.

No. 3. 1776, September 26th.—Copy of deposition by Edward Monekton. On going to his house at the Mount for dinner at 1 p.m. on the 15th September, deponent found Captain Randall among the guests. Randall showed deponent a written statement which he wished to make on oath. Next morning Randall brought the paper duly attested, and said that he had resigned the Nawab's service, and that Lord Pigot had promised to befriend him and pay his passage to England. He asked for a loan of Pags. 600, which deponent provided. Sworn in Court before James Taylor<sup>(2)</sup>, Registrar.

[3 sheets, *flscp.*]

[No. 305.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, October 1st, Fort St. George.—I hear that Captain Randall, an officer in the Nawab's service, has declared on oath

(1) *Vide* No. 214, p. 221, note 2.

(2) James Taylor, a civil servant of 1764.

before the Mayor that “Mudar Mulk, the Nabob’s second son,” instigated him to murder Lord Pigot by poison or otherwise, and promised him the aid of Comaroo, Benfield’s dubash.

“CHOCAPAH.”

[*Autograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 306.]

HENRY BROOKE to ROBERT PALK, Esqr., London.

1776, October 2nd, Fort St. George.—“You will be surprized at the news that you will hear on the arrival of the Company’s packet by this conveyance. The unhappy division which has prevailed in our Council . . . and the put[t]ing Lord Pigot under an arrest is of such importance that I have wrote a short account of it to Mr. Roberts<sup>(1)</sup>, Chairman at the India House, in two letters, copies of both which I have transmitted to my brother Thomas Brooke in Charles Street, St. James’s, London, to both of which I beg leave to refer you.”

“HENRY BROOKE.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 307.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, October 6th, Fort St. George.—Owing to the unsettled state of public affairs I am obliged to relinquish my duties as your attorney, but my resignation should cause no inconvenience to your other attorneys here.

The Minority in the recent revolution included Lathom, Chief of Cuddalore, who came up to join the Circuit Committee. “He did not take his seat at the Board till a day or two before the event of the 24th of August, so that he came in just time enough (as it were) to be suspended. I am sorry for him. He is a good man, *and means well at least*.”

“Sir Robert Fletcher has been ill for some months past of a decline, and for the last week it has been said that he will go to the Cape for the recovery of his health. Apartments are kept for him and Lady Fletcher on board the *Greenwich*, but it is thought by some that the late favorable accounts from the Supreme [Government] may induce him to put off his voyage.

“Binfield is just returned from Tanjore, where he went to recover his money by virtue of a recommendatory letter from the Board to the Rajah. The King . . . denies owing him any thing. Binfield being chagrined, was rude and insolent, and left the King abruptly. One part of Binfield’s busyness was to have procured proof there of Lord Pigot’s venallity, but it does not appear that he has succeeded. He has long threatened him with a prosecution on that score, and if he can

(1) John Roberts was Chairman in 1776.

find ground to go on, I am perswaded will not spare him, having repeatedly declared that he will spend one hundred thousand pounds to obtain satisfaction of him . . .”

“GEORGE BAKER.”

[*Holograph*, 5 pp., 4to.]

[No. 308.]

H.H. the NAWAB WALAJAH to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, October 8th, Chepauck.—“My letter that goes to you herewith will inform you of the situation of my affairs. You may recollect that at the time the treaty was made by Lord Pigot with the Rajah of Tanjore in 1762, when you, General Lawrence, Mr. Bouchier and Colonel Call were at Madrass, I complained to you and General Lawrence that it was contrary to my inclination that the treaty was made; that I had told his Lordship so, and had refused to subscribe to it; but that he put a pen in my hand and obliged me to sign it, and also took my Chop<sup>(1)</sup> and put it with his own hand to the treaty. I hope that . . . you will declare this circumstance to every body, as it will shew how unjust his Lordship’s conduct has been. He made a large fortune and went home; but not content, he has returned to India to pursue his private interests and to make another fortune by repeating his ill treatment to me.

“What can I say more?”

[1 p., *flscp*. The outer cover is addressed in both English and Persian character. Its wax seal bears the Nawab’s titles in Persian.]

[No. 309.]

PRINCE AMIR-UL-UMARA to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, October 9th, Chepauk.—“Though I have not had the pleasure of a correspondence with you, I am very sensible of your great friendship for my father when you were in this country, and of the assistance you give Colonel Maclean . . . You’ll see by my father’s letter to you, as well as from the representations of Colonel Maclean, how things are situated here, and the troubles that his Lordship has occasioned in my father’s rights and country. We have great hopes from your assistance. Your letter to Sir Edward Hughes rejoiced my father’s heart. We have had great support from our mutual friend Mr. Hastings. I give as much assistance as is in my power to your attorney, Mr. de Vries . . .”

“What can I say more?”

[1 p., *flscp*. Nawab’s cipher.]

(1) Vide No. 293, p. 284, note 1,



[No. 310.]

JOHN D'FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esqr.

1776, October 10th, Madras.—“This goes by the *Swallow*, which is to put the letters ashore at Suez, to be forwarded from thence to Grand Cairo and Alexandria and so to Europe, and may probably be the first advice that you will receive of the revolution that happened in the Government of this Settlement on the 24th of August last. Mr. Dalrymple goes with Lord Pigot's packet, and Colonel Capper with the Nabob's, by whom I send this.

“The measures pursued by Lord Pigot in the surrender of Tanjore to the Rajah and the total disregard paid to the interest of individuals (English and others) who had a very large amount to receive there by assignment from the Nabob, caused a very great discontent in the Settlement as well as a disgust in the Nabob, and occasioned a strong opposition in Council against his Lordship, who had on his side Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple and Stone; the Majority consisting of Messrs. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay. After a contest of three months the grand point of dispute became that Mr. Russell, who had been appointed, by the casting vote of the President only, Resident at Tanjore, was afterwards named on the Committee of Circuit. Colonel Stuart was to be Commandant at Tanjore. Lord Pigot refused absolutely signing to his instructions, which were drawn out, without Mr. Russell was permit[t]ed to go to Tanjore for a few days at least. This brought matters to a crisis. Lord Pigot by a finesse suspended Messrs. Stratton and Brooke the 22nd, which gave to his party the majority, as he called in the next day Mr. Lathom to Council, who has come down from Cuddalore to proceed on the Circuit.

“Mr. Stratton's party would not admit that they were suspended, and on the 23rd met themselves as a Board; and, as the legal representatives of the Company, signified a protest to Lord Pigot and his party, who thereupon suspended the rest of them and put Sir Robert Fletcher under an arrest. This drove them to the extremity on the next [day], the 24th, of seizing on Lord Pigot, who was carried to the Mount, and is kept there under guard of the Artillery commanded by Major Horne. Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple, Stone and Lathom [were] suspended . . .

“We are in daily expectation of hearing from Bengal the opinion of the Supreme Council hereon. In their resolutions of the 7th August they disapproved entirely of Lord Pigot's conduct towards the Nabob and of his proceedings in the surrender of Tanjore . . . It will be of the utmost consequence that the Company's determination of this important subject be proper, considerate and impartial, as the future well-being of this very considerable Colony and their good correspondence

with the Nabob will entirely depend thereon . . . The most essential thing for the Company as well as the publick is that there be always a good understanding subsisting between their Administration here and the Nabob, who should be used with proper respect, and not slighted and irritated. We have raised him ourselves to what he is, and to think now of treating him as we did twenty years ago will be neither just nor judicious. He is too sensible of his own consequence ; but I do believe that he is a sincere friend of the English. His own good sense will lead him to be so.

“The choice of persons to conduct the Company’s affairs here should be made with the greatest care and attention to their abilities and characters, as much depends on a vigorous, well conducted Administration. A line should be drawn of the extent of the powers of a Governor and that of a majority of his Council, as different opinions are held thereon by the different partys. In those troubles at Bengal during Mr. Vansittart’s government nothing but his incomparable mildness of temper prevented things running into extremities. And it should be clearly pointed out whether the military power should at any time interfere in disputes of the civil government, as the not determining it very clearly may leave a door open to dangerous proceedings hereafter.

“We are quiet in these parts. Although a peace has been made many months ago between the Presidency of Bombay and the Morattas, yet there don’t seem to be much cordiality subsisting. Trade is almost ruined all over India. The scarcity of specie is much felt here : the exportation continues as great as ever both to China and Europe . . .”

“JOHN D’FRIES.”

[P.S.]—“The Supreme Council have unanimously approved of the act of the Majority, and promise their support, acknowledging them to be the legal representatives of the Company.”

[Autograph, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 311.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1776, October 14th, Fort St. George.—“Since I closed my last Lord Pigot has put Sir R. Fletcher into our Mayor’s Court for two hundred thousand pounds damages, and required security for that sum ere he leaves the Settlement, which he was about to do for the recovery of his health at the Cape. The Court have accepted bail for ten thousand pounds only, and Sir Robert and Lady Fletcher go on the *Greenwich*. Report says that Miss Pybus<sup>(1)</sup> is to be married to Captain Lysaght . . . Mr. R. Adams dyed about six weeks since, worth near two lacks of pagodas. Colonel Monson has been long dangerously ill . . .

(1) Cf. No. 293, p. 286, note 1.

“ I have made no comment on the narrative sent you. Were I to do so, it would be some thing like what follows :—The spirit of liberty within these few years spreading and thriving throughout the British dominions extended itself even here, and this at the time of a lax and weak government. People, at least some of the Council, dreaded a restraint under Lord Pigot’s government which they had not been for a long time used to . . . The orders he came to execute as to the restoration of the King of Tanjore alarmed those who had lent money to the Nabob on his assignment of the produce of parts of that country. The Settlement, it is said, had lent him on such assignments (called Tankas) some fifteen lacks of pagodas, which if they could not recover by virtue thereof, they had no one to look to for it but the Nabob ; and he told them that they having accepted of those assignments as their security, they were to look to that and not to him for payment. So that it became their joyn’t interest either not to restore the country to the King, or restore it only on condition of its being saddled with the payment of that sum of money . . . And this, in the opinion of many, was the principal private motive for opposing Lord Pigot’s measures, though it was not the avowed one.

“ This being the case, the Opposition chose the best grounds of argument that offered in a course of long altercation, kept up perhaps for the very purpose of involveing Lord Pigot in inextricable difficultyes, or to compel him to submit to the government of a majority against him, which I suppose his spirit could but ill brook, and which I believe brought things and persons to the state they are now in.” Lord Pigot, moreover, failed to cultivate a good understanding with the Supreme Council, while the members of the Majority corresponded privately with Bengal and ascertained how far they might expect support. “ The restoration of the Rajah of Tanjore on terms precluding those from the prospect of recovering it who had lent the Nabob money on that country was to this Settlement a most unpopular measure, and such as rendered the supporters of it odious. Those who opposed it were of course dubbed patriots, though perhaps done for their own sakes . . .”

“ GEORGE BAKER.”

[*Autograph, 3½ pp., flsep. Some corrections have been made in the spelling.*]

[No. 312.]

JOHN D’FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1776, October 15th, Madras.—“ The Supreme Council have entirely approved of the conduct of the Majority of Council, and have promised them their support . . . The business must now be finally determined in Europe. It will not do for his Lordship to preside here again.

“ Colonel Monson dyed the beginning of this month, which



will leave Mr. Hastings with a clear majority. Sir Robert Fletcher embarks on the *Greenwich* for the Cape, but there is very little hopes of his life. He has given bail for 10,000*l.* to answer suit, my Lord Pigot having entered an action in the Mayor's Court for two hundred thousand *l.* damages against him.

"Mr. Baker has wrote us a letter signifying that from ill health he is obliged to relinquish the charge of your affairs. Mr. Stone is gone to the Mount to live, to be nearer Lord Pigot . . ."

"JOHN D'FRIES."

[*Autograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 313].

EDM[UN]D VEALE LANE to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1776, December 17th, Salsette. Received 28th July, 1777.—  
"I wrote to you in my last of the peace which the Supremes had concluded with the Ministerial Party of the Morattahs, and that they had compelled the Governor and Council to break their engagements to Ragonath Row (or Ragobah). It was owing entirely to an accident the Treaty was in any shape complied with by the Ministers; for had not Sudabah,<sup>(1)</sup> a first cousin of Ragobah's, got released from confinement and very near wrested the government from them, Colonel Upton might have returned to Calcutta without having an article of the Treaty fulfilled. But on Sudabah's success, being apprehensive we should join him, the Ministers made good most of the cessions stipulated for, though they had either refused or evaded to do it for some months before. Notwithstanding this good fortune at first, poor Sudabah was at last betrayed by some of his people, and taken prisoner by Madjee Scindy,<sup>(2)</sup> one of the Ministerial Generals.

"Ragobah, who had resided at Surat ever since our leaving him, finding his relation out of prison, and a promising prospect of success, left that place and made the best of his way towards Basein in order to join Sudabah. But when the misfortune just now mentioned happened, Ragobah was so hard pushed as to be obliged to take shelter on board one of the Company's vessels, and is now safe at Bombay.

"It is now said the officer who took Sudabah prisoner has declared for him, and means to make him Vizier to the young child, and that Ragobah has in consequence been invited to return to Poonah. However, it is believed by most to be only a finesse of the Ministers to get Ragobah into their hands. Be it as it will, I wish most sincerely there was an end to the dispute. Were the Presidency of Bombay once more permitted to interfere, it would soon terminate to our advantage; but as that

(1) *Vide* No. 290, p. 281, note 1.

(2) Mahādaji Sindia.

seems to be very uncertain, if not improbable, I fear the present possessors of the Morattah government will continue in power, which if the case, we shall ever have a most inveterate enemy near us, that will lay wait for the first opportunity that offers to injure the Company . . .

“As General Carnac<sup>(1)</sup> is appointed to be our Governor on the resignation of Mr. Hornby, I shall think myself greatly favoured could you . . . procure me a letter of recommendation to him from some of his friends . . .”

“EDMD. VEALE LANE.”

[*Holograph, 4 pp. 4to.*]

[No. 314.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1777, January 20th, Fort St. George.—I hear that Mr. Benfield, obtaining no satisfaction for the *tanka* given him by the Nawab on Tanjore, appealed to the Council, but received no support. “Upon which, on the 24th October last, Mr. Benfield went to the Nabob’s catchery, where he made [a] great noise, and stayed there from 8 o’clock in the morning to 8 at night without taking any victuals nor drink, and said that he would not go from the door without the Nabob give him some proper manner of satisfaction to his money; and the Nabob sat with him so long without victuals, and at last told Mr. Benfield that he will appoint Mr. Mackay, Mr. Macpherson, Cojah Ashum Cawn<sup>(2)</sup> and another Moorman to settle his accounts . . . but not a word of Tanaca money of Tanjore . . .

“Mr. Stratton and the Gentlemen at the Fort affixed an advertisement at the gates, giving notice that they are willing to receive sealed proposals untill the 15th of February next (though the Cowles expire the 31st July next, which is about 5½ months more) for farming the Beetle and Tabacoa Farm, Arrack and Toddy Farm, Ruby Brokerage, Paddy Field and Salt Pans, Trivatore, Egmore, Perembore and St. Thoma,” and also the Fort St. David farms, for five, eight or ten years; but it seems doubtful whether the acceptance of tenders by a self-constituted Government will be valid. Lord Pigot was

(1) John Carnac came to India in 1754 at the age of 38 as a subaltern in Adlercron’s Regiment, and three years later joined the Company’s forces with a step of rank. In 1760 Major Carnac succeeded Caillaud in command of the army at Patna, and in the following year defeated the Mogul, who was aided by a French contingent under Jean Law. In 1765 Brig.-General Carnac worsted the Marathas, and in 1767 resigned the service, went to England and entered Parliament. Returning to India in 1776, he was appointed a member of the Bombay Council. As a Field Deputy he accompanied Egerton’s ill-fated expedition against the Marathas, and was dismissed the service for his share in concluding the Convention of Wargaoon in 1779. Carnac resided at Bombay until 1800, when he visited Mahé for his health. On the return voyage he was seized with illness, and was landed at Mangalore, where he died, aged 84 years.

(2) Khwaja Assam (? Hashim) Khan, the Nawab’s Diwān. In 1781 he was deputed to Calcutta with Richard Sullivan to offer the assignment of Walajah’s revenues to the Company for the charges of the war with Haidar.

offered payment of his salary up to the 24th August, but refused to accept it, as the amount was only part of what was due to him. The Council were obliged to break open the Treasury, because the keys were in Lord Pigot's possession. His Lordship is in good spirits, and we hope that orders for his reinstatement will be received in due course.

Mr. Andrew Ross<sup>(1)</sup> having enquired of the Supreme Court of Bengal whether the Board has power to convene Quarter Sessions, the Chief Justice declined to give an opinion, but authorized Mr. Stratton to hold sessions provisionally pending receipt of orders from England. Mr. Turing, the late Mayor, received a similar intimation regarding the Court of Mayor and Aldermen.

Colonel Stuart has been seriously ill. Captain Lysaght is transferred to Ganjam, and Major Sydenham succeeds him as Town Major. "Mr. Russell made a grand entertainment of cards and supper at the Mount," both at Christmas and on New Year's Day, and put up a handsome *pandal*.<sup>(2)</sup> Most of the civil servants, some of the officers and the principal English and Armenian residents were present. Mr. Stratton found himself deserted on those occasions, as everyone went to visit Lord Pigot. When Chippermall Chetty and I called on Mr. Mackay we were refused admission by his *chobdars*.<sup>(3)</sup> The dubash said his master was displeased with me for visiting Lord Pigot and supplying materials for Mr. Russell's *pandal*. The Bombay Council have refused to acknowledge any Governor here but Lord Pigot. A proposal to send his Lordship forcibly to England was strongly supported by Colonel Stuart and Mr. Mackay, but opposed by Mr. Stratton and the other members of the Council.

The French have stopped work on the fortifications at Pondicherry. The new Governor, M. Bellecombe, arrived there on the 8th instant, and took charge from M. Law. Haidar Ali is reported to have taken Cranganore, one of the Dutch settlements on the Malabar Coast, and to be preparing to attack the Rajas of Cochin and Travancore. The latter expect assistance from the Dutch at Colombo. Haidar, having made a prisoner of Morāri Rao and seized territory on this side of the Kistna, will be opposed by Nizam Ali as well as by the whole power of the Marathas.

Mr. Macpherson<sup>(4)</sup> is about to sail for England in the *Lioness*. Mr. Brooke desired to depart likewise, but was refused leave by his colleagues in Council. Colonel Stuart will go shortly to Tanjore, where the Raja expects little consideration from him.

"CHOCAPAH."

[Autograph, 13 pp., 4to.]

(1) *Vide* No. 28, p. 46, note 1.

(2) *Pandal*, an open shed, draped pavilion.

(3) *Chobdar*, bearer of a (silver) staff.

(4) John Macpherson. *Vide* No. 270, p. 263, note 2.



[No. 315.]

SIR EDW[AR]D HUGHES to ROB[ERT] PALK, Esq.

1777, February 6th, Madras.—“ I returned the middle of last month from Ceylon to this Presidency, where I find things much in the same state I left them ; Lord Pigot still under restraint at the Mount ; his Lordship, the Gentlemen in the Fort and the Nabob all anxious to receive the determination of the Court of Directors, which I fear cannot be before August. It seems there was some steps taken at the Board to send Lord Pigot to England in this ship, but overruled by a majority of two. The Nabob very much averse to such a measure : indeed, as their differences are referred to a Court of Directors, sure it is most proper his Lordship should wait here the result.

“ Nothing has arrived here since the *Triton*, nor do I expect anything now sooner than May, when I have reason to believe the ships will arrive to relieve me, and I shall be prepared to leave India immediately. The *Coventry* has been at Mocha and Judda, the *Seahorse* to China : both joined me again after performing well the service I sent them upon. . . .

“ I hope you and Mr. Maclean have succeeded in favour of the Nabob. There is already an English garrison there,<sup>(1)</sup> to which his Highness readily consents, but I hope the Company will recall their former orders that took the country from him, though the remark you make of our former labour and expence is very just. Some plan may be settled to avoid the same difficulties relative to the brothers<sup>(2)</sup> after the father's decease, yet the Nabob at the same time may be satisfied.

“ A new Governor has taken place at Pondichery, Major General Bellecombe. Mr. Law is not pleased at his immediate remove from the Chair. There is also a new Intendant, and a 70-gun ship lent to the Company has just landed 100 men from Mauritius. I conclude their operations in India will depend much on what has passed last year in America.

“ The death of Colonel Monson gave the majority to Mr. Hastings, and, it is said from Bengal, has made many changes by displacing some of the late appointments, establishing others, and that the Company's affairs are carried on now chiefly on the old plan. General Clavering has been very ill also, and though clear of his fever and boils, much emaciated. This climate is not good for too great strain of the mind, what has, I am afraid, attended the General ever since his arrival. It is probable a greater number of members of that Council may be judged necessary to provide against these casualties.

“ Our friend Captain Baker is very well ; greatly displeased with this late revolution in Government. He is nevertheless carrying his water through the surf<sup>(3)</sup> to supply the shipping, and

<sup>(1)</sup> At Tanjore.

<sup>(2)</sup> The question of succession as between the brothers Um-dat-ul-Umarā and Amir-ul-Umarā.

<sup>(3)</sup> Baker engineered a pipe line through the surf to deliver water to ships outside.

hearty though he grows old. Mr. Stone is at the Mount with his Lordship. I would gladly assist them with bills for the money you may have in their hands, but our demands at present for the use of 600 men only are so small, very little is in my power."

"EDWARD HUGHES."

[*Holograph*, 6 pp., 4to.]

[No. 316.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1777, February 6th, Fort St. George. Received 28th July.—  
"Mr. Macpherson,<sup>(1)</sup> a gentleman well known (and in some degree distinguished here, though of but little standing in the Company's service) takes his passage on the *Lyoness*. He was dismissed the service in Lord Pigot's Government for counselling the Nabob to pursue measures incompatible with the Company's interest; and it is supposed he goes to England on account of the Nabob to support his cause. Colonel Stuart sets out in a few days for his command at Tanjour . . ."

"GEORGE BAKER."

[*Autograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 317.]

THO[MA]S PALK to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.]

1777, February 6th, Madras.—"However unacceptable information of this nature may prove, yet it is, Sir, nevertheless, my indispensable duty to make known to you an event which I dread will meet with your disapprobation, as well as a disappointment to my father, etc. family; but I must say that it would most sensibly grieve me should any one action of my life, though attending with the most perfect state of felicity to myself, meet your disapprobation. . . . I have connected myself to the family of Mr. Thomas Pelling<sup>(2)</sup> by marrying his fourth daughter, Miss Catharine. With respect to her accompli[sh]ments it would be absurd in me to sound forth, but I must do her that justice to say that they are such as no man would make the least objection to. On the 30th ultimo our nuptials were celebrated . . ."

"THOS. PALK."

[*Holograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 318.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1777, October 13th, Fort St. George.—"My last was per his Majesty's ship *Salisbury* under date the 28th ultimo . . . Johnson and Perring arrived here the 6th instant, Charles

(1) John Macpherson. *Vide* No. 270, p. 263, note 2.

(2) *Vide* No. 250, p. 247, note 1.

Smith<sup>(1)</sup> yesterday. Sir Edward Vernon sailed with his squadron this morning for Trincomalee and Bombay . . . Stone and Russell go on the *Egmont*. Mr. Stratton and his colleagues stay to take their tryal. They have been admit[t]ed to bail. . . The new Government<sup>(1)</sup> have not yet entered on the disposition of the chiefships or of the places of profit. . . . I hope Perring will not forget your nephew.<sup>(2)</sup> He has been put in mind of him, and shows a disposition to serve him . . .”

“GEORGE BAKER.”

[*Autograph, 2½ pp., 4to. Duplicate.*]

[No. 319.]

ROB[ER]T PALK, jun., to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.].

[*Enclosure in a missing letter of date below.*]

1777, November 20th.—An account of remittances to England by Robert Palk, jun., from 1771 to 1777, aggregating £57,429 2s. 7d.

[4 pp., *flscp.*]

[No. 320.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1778, January 29th, Fort St. George. Received 11th August. —“The last letter that I troubled you with was of the 13th of last October per *Egmont*. . . Russell (who married Miss Leonora Pigot the day before they embarked) and Stone both went on the *Egmont*. . . Messrs. Stratton and Brooke left this early in December for Anjango, where they embarked on a small vessel the 31st of that month for Suez in their way to Europe. Early in this month the *Valantine*, in her way hither from Bengall, ran aground on the shoal between this and Pullicat, from which she got off with difficulty after having thrown over board the least valuable part of her cargoe, together with most of her guns, and cutting away all her masts. She is now in this road preparing to sail for and dock at Bombay, from whence she is expected to be here again some four, five or six months hence to load for Europe; when it is said Jourdan and Benfield will take their passage on her thither. I hear nothing of Floyer or Lathom’s proceeding to Europe at present.” Monckton and his family and Colonel Ross,<sup>(3)</sup> the Chief Engineer, are sailing for England immediately.

“Messrs. J. Whitehill, C. Smith, S. Johnson and P. Perring, constituteing our present Board of Government, go on calmly

(1) Charles Smith, Samuel Johnson and Peter Perring were members of the new Council nominated by the Directors in June, 1777.

(2) Thomas Palk, in whom Perring, as a Devonian, was interested.

(3) Patrick Ross was commissioned to the Royal Engineers after a year’s previous work with the Royal Artillery, and saw much active service in the West Indies as well as in India and at the Cape. In 1770 he joined the Company as Chief Engineer, Madras, with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel. To him Fort St. George owed its final reform and completion. He retired in 1802 when Major-General.



with the administration of public affairs, though the empty state of the Company's treasury has been rather an embarrassing circumstance. But the Board haveing been successfull in a deputation of Mr. Perring to the Rajah of Tanjore for anticipating the payment of the annual four lacks, that circumstance has set them afloat again . . . We really see the fortifications at the north east and south east angles of the town carrying on briskly . . .

"Party still subsists in the Settlement . . . Mackay has prosecuted Monckton for fifty thousand pound damages, as haveing been a principal means of causing what he calls an illegal inquest being held on the body of Lord Pigot,<sup>(1)</sup> by which he (Mackay, etc.) were charged with a heinous crime and put to much trouble and expence. It is said that the coroner<sup>(2)</sup> is to be prosecuted apart and the jury joynly for what they call a conspiracy, the Judges at Bengall haveing declared that the President and Council of Fort St. George have no legal authority to appoint a coroner.

"Your nephew is appointed Paymaster of Chingleput, a place equal to his expectations, and in obtaining which he must, I am perswaded, have had Perring's interest . . . The Nabob has lyiquidated his new debt, which is said to amount to some sixty or sixty-five lacks of pagodas, which is now become a new consolidation, for payment of which his creditors have received certain assignments of revenue. It is said there is about five lack of the old debt unpaid. . . .

"I have just had a letter from Mr. R. Kennaway at Bengall of the 31st ultimo, by which it appears he has been lately ill, but is now recovered; though by the advise of his friends he intends to take a trip hither for the reestablishment of his health. I expect him dayly, shall endeavor to accommodate him while here, and make no doubt but (under God) the good Doctor Pasley, with the pure air of Madrass, will soon confirm him in his former state of health. Mr. J. Kennaway was well in December last . . .

"My affair<sup>(3)</sup> continues still in an unsettled state. As Rumbold<sup>(4)</sup> is expected soon, I am willing to see if, on his

(1) At an inquest held on the body of Lord Pigot on the 11th May, 1777, the jury brought in a verdict of wilful murder against Stratton, Fletcher, Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, Mackay, Stuart, Edington, Lysaght and Horne. A case was begun at the Quarter Sessions in September, but the proceedings were quashed in November.

(2) Immediately after the revolution the Majority ordered the removal of George Andrew Ram, a civil servant of 1767, from the office of Coroner, and appointed a successor. Ram maintained that his supersession was illegal, and he held the inquest on Lord Pigot. George Smith was the foreman of the jury.

(3) The water supply of the Fort, for which Baker had contracted in 1771. The project embraced a pipe line from the 'Seven Wells,' north of Black Town, and storage cisterns under the ramparts of Fort St. George.

(4) Thomas Rumbold entered the Madras civil service in 1752, but was transferred to the army. He served under Lawrence at Trichinopoly, accompanied Clive to Calcutta and was wounded at Plassey. Reverting to the civil service, he sat in the Bengal Council from 1766 to 1769, returned to England, entered Parliament, and served as a Director of the Company from 1772 until he was appointed Governor of Madras. He was created a baronet in 1779.

assuming the Government, it can be fairly and fully adjusted. It is too long and too perplexed a story for me to trouble you with. I have only to say at present that I am reassured that I have in every instance done justly; and it yet seems to be proved that I have, as my adversary or enemies would insinuate, erred in judgement. It is hard, very hard, that a contract should be made a losing one for no other reason of course, if I am suffered to complete it, it may be advantageous . . . Mr. Wynne has done me an irreparable injury. I know not whether to blame the defects of his head or those of his heart most for it. I wish not to live for any other thing, much as he realises that man to a Vicar of Justice or in a General Court of Proprietors. But the chance is against me. I live but too much reason to fear that may never happen; so that way lies under a load of reproach and without the possibility of justifying myself. But pardon me; all that is more . . .

"GROVERHALL."

[Autograph, 6 pp., 32pp.]

[No. 321.]

MELISSA KIRBY to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1778, January 30th, Fort St. George.—"I address'd a letter to your favour by ship *Kismet*, giving you an account of the situation of my affairs, and which I hope hath reach'd safe to your hands; since which I have plainly discover'd that the Nabob, upon bare supposition of my being the case of the restoration of the Tanjore country, not only hinders me from being employ'd in my usual station, but raises several humours stories, being assisted by his second son Maudaral Mischik, to hurt myself and family. You are very sensible of my disquiet and faithful discharge of my duty to the Honourable Company and my services to their friends and Allies. . . . therefore humbly begs and begs firm dependance on your goodness that you will be pleas'd to engage your interest to remove all obstacles that may be thrown [in] my way both by the Nabob and his friends at home; and procure the restoration of my employ. . . ."

"MELISSA 4-1794."

[Autograph, 2 pp., 40.]

[No. 322.]

GEORGE BARRE to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1778, March 5th, Fort St. George. Received 5th November.—"Mr. R. Kemmaway arrived here the beginning of February last. He is much better, and in a fair way of being restor'd to his former health again. He sets out to-morrow on a visit to your nephew Mr. Thomas Palk at Chingleput. . . . the Duke of Kingston (by which ship this comes) . . . arriv'd here

a few days since from Bengall. . . . Mrs. Parry,<sup>(1)</sup> Mrs. Hessman and a Mrs. Saw were passengers on her for Europe, but it is said that Mr. Parry has some thoughts of staying here. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Floyer and Colonel and Mrs. Ross take their passages on br. . . .

"The *Besborough* and *Lord North*, with Mr. Rumbold, General Monce,<sup>(2)</sup> Sir J. Day,<sup>(3)</sup> etc., arrived here the 8th of last month, & well. The Government being again established, we enjoy domestic quiet, and party resentment, it is to be hoped, will in a reasonable time wear away. The new Governor being of course busy, . . . I have not yet had a proper opportunity to speak to him on my affair. Some thing must, however, be finally resolved on between this and next October. My state of health and time of life will not allow me to play with time any longer. . . .

"The French, under the direction of Saint Luban,<sup>(4)</sup> have hoisted their colours at Choul, a place you know on the sea coast in the British dominions a little to the south of Bombay. . . . The Government of Bombay did some two months' since apply to this Presidency for troops. The answer returned was that they could take no step of that kind without the approbation of the Government General, but that they would, as they did, write to Bengall on the subject. . . .

"The Company having ordered a Court of Enquiry into General Sturt's conduct respecting the late revolution here, he, instead thereof, has requested an immediate court-martial without that previous formality; but the Board, it is said, have declined a compliance with that request. . . . And it is said that his six months' suspension, which expired on the last day of the last month, is continued. . . . The General has many friends in the army, that corps considering him as theirs. Major Horn, Captains Lysaght and Edington are ordered to repair to the Presidency. . . . While General Stuart's [conduct] remains unimpeached at martial law, theirs (who acted under his orders) may perhaps be unimpeachable. . . . God send a speedy end to this unlucky business. . . ."

"GEORGE BAKER."

[P.S.]—"his letter was wrote but a few hours when I

(1) Mrs. Parr, née Emelia Vansittart.

(2) Major General Hector Munro, Commander-in-Chief, Madras. Munro went to India in 1766 as Major of the 89th Regiment, and three years later he won the battle of Buxar. In October, 1778, on the outbreak of war with France, he took Pondicherry, for which he received the knighthood of the Bath. His inertia, however, in 1782 contributed to the annihilation of Baillie's force by Haidar Ali, and led to his own dismissal from the Company's service in 1782.

(3) Sir John Day, Advocate General, Bengal, remained at Madras during the inquiry into the causes of the late revolution.

(4) A person calling himself the Chevalier de St. Lubin, who professed to have an intimate knowledge of Haidar Ali's plans, had been employed in 1768 as intelligence officer to the Field Deputies with Colonel Smith at Kolar. In May, 1777, he appeared at Poona as a genuine emissary from the King of France with letters and gifts for the Peshwa. Nana Farnavis gave him the use of the port of Chaul in return for a promise of armed assistance.



accidentally heard that Mr. Monroe<sup>(1)</sup> (who was Paymaster of Chinglepat at the time of the revolution in our Government, but who had been dismissed the service by Mr. Stratton . . .) had been restored to that office, and set out to take charge of it yesterday. So that Mr. Kennaway is not only disappointed in his journey, but, what is far worse, Mr. Palk of his place. The former inconvenience we can easily remedy, but as to the latter it depends on Mr. Palk's friends and good fortune to supply a substitute."

[*Autograph*, 5 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., *flscp.*]

[No. 323.]

MUDOO KISTNA to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1778, March 14th, Fort St. George.—“ Mr. Rumbold arrived on Sunday, the 8th February, and succeeded to the Government. I went and paid my respects to him, and soon after presented a letter to him together with a representation containing an account of my long service to the Company beginning in the year 1747, and how I was prevented by Mr. Stratton in the execution of my office without cause, but he has not yet given me any answer.

“ The Nabob and his son Madarul Mulk, in direct opposition to justice, are still busy in hurting and ruining myself and family. I do not know what to say to them. As they are princes they think that nobody can oppose or contradict their assertions, or call them to an account. I have the pleasure to hear that Governor Rumbold is your friend, and hope therefore that you will be so kind as to write to him what is necessary in my behalf to protect me and family against the insults and malicious proceedings of the Nabob and his said son, and likewise about the restoration of my employ. . . .”

“ MUDOO KISTNA.”

[*Autograph*, 2 pp., 4to. *Duplicate.*]

[No. 324.]

COLONEL GILBERT IRNSIDE to ROBERT PALK, Esq., London.

1778, March 22nd, Calcutta.—I have not replied earlier to your letter of the 20th December, 1776, in consequence of press of work and “ some particular incidents which lately occurred here, and which General Caillaud will . . . communicate . . . . A whole budget of papers had I collected for your amusement, and had commenced a long narrative in illustration of them,” but these must wait a subsequent despatch. Meanwhile I must refer to another matter. The approaching termination of the Company's charter renders probable the advent of a number of King's officers, or possibly the amalgamation of the King's and Company's forces in India. Before such a contingency can occur it is important to me to secure promotion.

(1) Robert Duncan Munro. *Vide* No. 33, p. 55, note 2.

I have accordingly applied to General Caillaud and other friends in England to obtain for me a brevet as brigadier, with an order for succession to Brigadier-General Stibbert when that officer leaves for England. As I am now, after 20 years' service, the senior colonel on the Bengal list, such grant of rank will injure no-one and cost the Company nothing. I hope my application may receive your support.

“GILBERT IRONSIDE.”

“P.S.—After perusal of the accompanying papers, permit me to request your communication of them to General Caillaud.”

[*Holograph. 4 pp., 4to.*]

[*Enclosures*: The papers mentioned in the postscript above appear to have been eight in number, of which Nos. 2 and 3 have not been traced<sup>(1)</sup>.]

No. 1. *Copy of letter dated Fort William, 22nd June, 1777, from Warren Hastings and Richard Barwell to Colonel Ironside, commanding the 3rd Brigade in the field.*

“Whereas General Clavering has thought proper to assume to himself the title, place and office of Governor General of this Presidency,” we submitted the proceedings of the Board on this matter to the Chief Justice and Judges for opinion. General Clavering and Mr. Francis presented to the same authorities the Directors' orders relative to the appointment of Governor General. A copy of the Judges' opinion is now transmitted to you for publication in General Orders.

[1 p., *flscp.*]

No. 4. *Copy of Resolutions [by the Board, dated 23rd June, 1777].*

Resolved that by his usurpation of the office of Governor General Lieut.-General Clavering has thereby relinquished his offices of Senior Counsellor and Commander-in-Chief; that Richard Barwell be appointed Senior Counsellor; that the office of Commander-in-Chief no longer exists, and that Lieut.-General Clavering be not admitted to meetings of the Council.

[1½ p., *flscp.*]

No. 5. *Copy of Minute by Mr. Francis, dated Revenue Board, 24th June [1777].*

Advances arguments for reversing the resolutions of the 22nd June<sup>(2)</sup> regarding General Clavering. Points out that he and Clavering had acquiesced in the opinion given by the Judges, and states that he himself now appears as “mediator of peace and amity in Council.” Argues that under the Act of 1773 Clavering's seat in Council is

(1) No. 2 was probably a copy of the Judges' opinion, delivered on the 20th June, that the assumption of office by Clavering was illegal; and No. 3 a copy of the letter from Clavering and Francis to the Judges acquiescing in their decision.

(2) An error for 23rd June. *Cf.* Hastings' letter to Sykes of 29th June. (*Life of Warren Hastings*, Gleig, ii., 151.)

not vacant, and that the Board has no power to dismiss the Commander-in-Chief in respect of his authority outside Bengal.

[2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., *flscp.*]

No. 6. *Copy of letter, dated Fort William, 24th June, 1777, from E. Impey, R. Chambers, S. C. Lemaistre and J. Hyde to the Honble. Warren Hastings, Esq., Governor General, and the Gentlemen of the Council.*

We have "this morning" received a letter from General Clavering and Mr. Francis relative to your resolution of "yesterday," declaring vacant the offices held by General Clavering. Though we have not on this occasion received any representation from you, yet, as we regard the present question as part of the transaction on which you lately asked for our decision, we now deliver the opinion that your Board has not the power to remove a member from the Council nor declare his seat vacant.

[1 $\frac{1}{2}$  p., *flscp.*]

No. 7. *Copy of Extract of the Proceedings of the Governor General and Council, dated 25th June, 1777.*

"Resolved that the Board do recede from putting in execution all their resolutions passed since the 20th instant, which can in any wise prevent the General from the full and immediate exercise of his several offices . . ."

[ $\frac{3}{4}$  p., *flscp.*]

No. 8. *Copy of letter, dated Fort William, 25th June, 1777, from Warren Hastings, J. Clavering, R. Barwell and P. Francis to Colonel Ironside, commanding the 3rd Brigade in the field.*

We transmit copies of a letter from the Supreme Court and Government resolution thereon, direct their publication in General Orders, and revoke all orders issued [?since] the 19th instant which have a contrary tendency.

[1 p., *flscp.*]

## No. 325.

HENRY VANSITTART, jun., to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.]

1778, April 24th, Calcutta.—"The eldest Kennaway has been obliged to visit the Coast for the recovery of his health . . . His brother is present in the scene of emolument, deriving very considerable advantages from his situation in Asoph-ud-Dowlah's<sup>(1)</sup> country.

"We dread a revolution in our Government by the first packet from Europe. . . I am not very apprehensive of one myself, provided the news of the General's<sup>(2)</sup> death should have reached England before a new Act of Parliament passed. We

(1) Asaf-ud-daula, Nawab of Oudh, who succeeded on the death of his father Shuja-ud-daula in January, 1775.

(2) Sir John Clavering died in August, 1777,



think the Minister will be obliged to lay India affairs before Parliament in order to restrain the authority of the Supreme Court.

“ I think the expedition into the country of the Mahrattoes, though apparently the troops are only to pass through it in their way to Bombay, may raise a clamour at home. However, the Government defends the measure with many plausible arguments, and declares it will produce a good effect even if the troops should be obliged to return. The French had certainly been intriguing with the Mahrattas, and it is a maxim well known to foreigners that the only method of establishing themselves in India is by connecting themselves with the country Powers.

“ I am obliged to you for interesting yourself in my concerns, and be assured that I have no friend on whom I can place more reliance, and none whose good offices are more pleasing . . . .”

“ HENRY VANSITTART.”

[*Holograph, 2 pp., flscp.*]

[No. 326.]

THO[MA]S PELLING to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1778, October 11th, Madras.—I have pleasure in acceding to your wish that I should become one of your attorneys in concert with Mr. d’Fries.

“ Your nephew, Mr. T. Palk, was appointed Paymaster at Chenglaput when the arrangement was made on Mr. Whitehill’s arrival last year, where he would have been happily situated for a few years; but had the mortification to be recalled by the Governor and Council, who, on the arrival of Mr. Rumbold, received orders from the Court of Directors to restore the young gentlemen that were under suspension to their former stations. He has the promise of being provided for, but favourites and weighty recommendations will ever be predominant, so that he must rest content and look forward. I have no reason to find fault with his conduct since marriage, and should be happy he regained your former paternal affection by convincing him of it in a line from yourself. . . .”

“ THOS. PELLING.”

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to. Duplicate.*]

[No. 327.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.].

1778, October 15th, Fort St. George. Received 11th September, 1779.—“ I am sorry to acquaint you that poor Snelling<sup>(1)</sup> departed this life the 17th of August in Madras. His station for six years past has been in the Cicacole district (so fatal to

(1) Lieut. J. Snelling. *Vide* No. 267, p. 261.

many). and had been at death's door several times. Even those who have the slightest attack of that pernicious disorder, though survive, never get quit of it. He made a will, leaving what little money he was worth to a child and its mother, which I have taken care of for the present, as I hope that Snelling's friends will send for it. I am told it is very white, having not yet seen it. My having no knowledge of Snelling's relations, who they are and where they are, is the reason of my troubling you, Sir, with this information."

I learn with much satisfaction from Mr. Baker that Mrs. Palk has recovered from her late indisposition.

"THO. PALK."

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 328.]

MUDOO KISTNA to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1778, October 15th, Fort St. George.—I have received no satisfactory reply from Governor Rumbold to my application for reinstatement—a result which I attribute to the malign influence of the Nawab and his son, who suspect me of being the cause of the rendition of Tanjore. It is hard that I should suffer when all the Company's servants who were suspended by Mr. Stratton's Government have been restored to the service. My desire for reinstatement is due to a regard for my reputation, as well as for the sake of my son Choliappa, who has been trained in native languages in view to his becoming useful to the Company. I beg that you will use your influence with the Directors on my behalf, and also write to Mr. Rumbold.

"MUDOO KISTNA."

[*Autograph*, 3 pp., 4to.]

[No. 329.]

EDWARD COTSFORD<sup>(1)</sup> to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1778, October 17th, Madrass. Received 17th March, 1779.—  
"We arrived here safe and sound on the 16th of August last, meeting with our greatest risque when we imagined the cares of the voyage over. Not knowing of our differences with the French, we passed within sight of Pondicherry and their fleet at anchor in the road. When we came off the place in the morning we saw a ship astern crowding after us. At the same time one of those in the road slipped from her anchor and gave us chace. She sailed ill, and the one astern was still too far off to do any thing with us. After a chace of upwards of twenty miles, when the largest began to near us very fast, we saw six sail ahead, and about a quarter of an hour afterwards the two Frenchmen hauled their wind and stood to the eastward. The falling in with Sir Edward Vernon (for they proved to be his

<sup>(1)</sup> *Vide* No. 483, p. 199, note 1.

squadron) I believe saved us. English ships in the situation of those Frenchmen would certainly have shewn a better conduct.

"We have had open trenches before Pondicherry for some time, where we have met with more opposition than was expected. Considering we were masters of the time for declaring hostilities with the French, it appears to me that the greatest advantage has not been made of so very commanding a privilege. Before discovering our purpose we might have received every kind of information respecting the works of Pondicherry, the strength of the garrison, the quantity of stores and provisions, and numberless other particulars, a knowledge of which might have put it in our power to have carried the place by surprise, or have prepared us for the difficulties we have met with; for our experience has shewn that we held them too cheap, having either made too light of their strength or given ourselves credit for too much. What I have said is merely my private opinion, and I give it with some diffidence lest I should be mistaken. We have had a great deal of rain lately, which has impeded our operations, and, considering the season of the year, great vigour and expedition is necessary. Indeed we expect every hour to hear that the business is decided.

"A resolution very detrimental to an increase of reputation and my private interest has been lately adopted here—I mean the calling all the Zemindars up to the Presidency, and in a great measure taking the business of that chiefship out of the hands of the Chief and Council. This, together with other particulars, makes me apprehensive the Otterton<sup>(1)</sup> estate will not come within my grasp. I have desired Mr. Webster to wait upon you for your opinion. He will shew you my letter to him, and likewise the copy of one which I have writ to Mr. Wombwell<sup>(2)</sup> by this dispatch, which treats on the affairs of Masulipatam . . .

"Advices are just now received from camp that the Governor of Pondicherry has sent out a flag of truce desiring permission to send out propositions for a capitulation. God grant it may terminate successfully, for much depends upon that event.

"My situation here is extremely disagreeable, as all the Zemindars are now here, and when they will return I cannot tell.

"If the state of things should put it in your power to serve me towards my promotion in this country, your assistance will always be very gratefully acknowledged by me. My presumption grows in seeing the small abilities of the present Governor and Council. . . ."

"EDWARD COTSFORD."

[*Holograph, 5 pp., 4to.*]

(1) A village between Sidmouth and Exmouth near the mouth of the Otter.

(2) George Wombwell, Chairman of the Company in 1777 and 1778, was created a baronet in the latter year,



[No. 330.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1778, October 19th, Fort St. George.—“ I have the pleasure to inform your Honour that Mr. Bellecombe, the French Governour, and his Council were at last obliged to surrender the Fort and town of Pondicherry to General Munro by capitulation yesterday under the following terms :—That private fortunes of the white and black inhabitants of Pondicherry are to be secured to themselves, and they are to be permitted to carry them where they please ; the fortifications [and] the houses belonging to the Government and the inhabitants both white and black are not to be destroyed untill they further hear from Europe ; the French troops and the French gentlemen are surrendered themselves prisoners of war to his Britan[n]ick Majesty on condition they are permitted to proceed to Europe under the cost of the English. . . .

“ We the inhabitants under the English protection are very well secured by the present victory, as we shall certainly be under no apprehension from the French, who can do nothing in these part[s] of the world during the present war, as they have no Settlement in the East Indies to send their forces and land them. . . .”

“ CHOCAPAH.”

[Autograph, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 331.]

PHILIP STOWEY<sup>(1)</sup> to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.].

1778, October 21st, Madrass.—“ After a passage of six months I arrived here safe and well. The Settlement at that time did not seem very flattering to my views on account of a determined war carrying on against the French in these parts ; but as great success[es] have attended it since, and particularly so in the reduction of Pondicherry, things now bear a much better aspect, and I have no doubt but the purposes of my coming here will on the long run be fully answered, provided I continue in health. . . .

“ I have been called into employ, and have formed plans for an alteration and enlargement to the Admiralty building,<sup>(2)</sup> which is now carrying into execution. Your and Mr. Call's letters were received by Mr. Rumbold with seeming attention, and I was flattered with ideas of his intention to serve me, but that is all to come . . . Yesterday I had the honor of an audience with his Highness the Nabob, who, on delivery of your and Mr. Call's letters, received me very graciously and requested my assistance in the way of my profession. He is building at

<sup>(1)</sup> Philip Stowey was appointed Civil Architect at Madras by the Company, with liberty to undertake private work.

<sup>(2)</sup> *Vide* No. 216, p. 223, note 2.

the Durbarr<sup>(1)</sup> in the Moorish stile, and I fear has gone on too far to be prevailed on to alter it."

Details of the siege of Pondicherry you will hear from other sources. "Our batteries against that place were opened the 18th of last month, and after a noble defence, in which the brave Belcombe<sup>(2)</sup> have gained much honor, the Fort was surrendered the 17th instant. Our loss of men is not inconsiderable, particularly officers, among which fell Major Stephins,<sup>(3)</sup> Chief Engineer. A man of good abilities and most indefatigable in the exercise of his profession, his loss is universally lamented here. Mr. Baker, for whom I brought a letter from you, is now almost inconsolable for the loss of his son,<sup>(4)</sup> who was also killed before Pondicherry. . . ."

"PHILIP STOWEY."

[*Holograph*, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 332.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1778, October 31st, Fort St. George. Received 27th March, 1779.—Since writing to you on the 19th instant I learn that "our Grenadiers . . . marched in at the Villinour Gate and entered into the town of Pondicherry a little before 5 o'clock the 18th in the evening, and [a] little before 6 of the same evening the French troops with their officers marched out, colours flying and drums beating, to the glais, where they piled their arms and were received prisoners of war by a party of our troops commanded by Captain Lysaght, and marched about a mile beyond our camp, where they remained that night; and next day they marched down to Madrass, and arrived here the 28th. They were about five hundred prisoners and about forty officers, part of which they keep prisoners in the Black Town,<sup>(5)</sup> and the rest sent down to Poonamally,<sup>(6)</sup> where they remain prisoners; and the officers are set at liberty upon their parole, to live here and at St. Thomé. The Company allows them the usual allowance." I hear "they have also about two hundred more French prisoners in the hospital at Pondicherry", who are to be brought here by sea.

"Mr. Bellecombe, Mr. Law, and the rest of the gentlemen of Council and other private merchants and the French inhabitants are still at Pondicherry." M. Bellecombe is expected here early next month. "The French frigate that was in the Road of

(1) The Nawab's palace at Chepauk. Cf. No. 206, p. 218, note 2.

(2) General Bellecombe, Governor of Pondicherry.

(3) William Stevens joined the Madras Engineers as Ensign in 1764, and was employed in the following year in a survey of Adam's Bridge in Palk Strait. He served as Captain at the siege of Tanjore in 1773, and was promoted Major in 1774. In 1778, when acting as Chief Engineer during the absence of Colonel Ross in England, he was killed by a cannon shot in the trenches before Pondicherry.

(4) Ensign George Baker.

(5) These prisoners were lodged in a building known as the 'Company's Granary,' which occupied the site of the present Custom House.

(6) Poonamallee, 15 miles west of Madras, possessed a fort and barracks.

Pondicherry is permitted to go to Mauritius and from thence to France." After the surrender General Munro received the merchants and other native inhabitants with much civility, and allowed them to reside and carry on business under British protection. The Governor and Council also granted permission to the gentlemen and other residents of French nationality to remain and trade, provided they took an oath of fidelity to the Government.

"General Munro returned from Pondicherry this morning. Captain William Rumbold (our Governor's son) is ready to take his passage with all the news on the *Cormorant*, now under dispatch for England. . . ."

"CHOCAPAH."

[Autograph, 3½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 333.]

MESSRS. PELLING & DE FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1778, November 1st, [Madras]. Received 17th March, 1779.—  
"We have desired Lord Shelburne to send us directions about the bills we have in our hands belonging to him. There is no likelihood of its being paid in India now that poor Mr. McLeane<sup>(1)</sup> is lost!

"We hope that you will be able to procure payment from Mr. Stone in England. We can't learn that he has any property here besides his houses.<sup>(2)</sup> We find by Comroo's will, which was proved in court, that Mr. Stone is considerably indebted to Comroo, and it has been reported that Mr. Benfield (between whom and Mr. Stone there was not much affection subsisting) endeavored to take along with him Mr. Stone's bond to Comroo, that he might recover it in England, but we don't know absolutely for certain whether he has taken it along with him or not. We thought it was necessary to give you a hint . . . .

"The Nabob since the fall of Pondicherry has promised to make a dividend to his creditors. God send he may keep his word. The whole Settlement is in want very much of payments from him. Whenever we are in cash we shall endeavor to remit to you to the best advantage, for we think your property will be safer nearer you than at this distance. India is a country of revolution, and we think we shall always be subject to it."

"PELLING & DE FRIES."

[2½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 334.]

JOHN D'FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1779, March 22nd, Fort St. George. Received 2nd January, 1780.—"This is purposely to inclose<sup>(3)</sup> to you copy of a letter

(1) Colonel Lauchlan Macleane. Cf. No. 169, p. 189, note 2.

(2) John Maxwell Stone owned two houses in Fort St. George, one in St. Thomé Street and one in Charles Street.

(3) Enclosures not found.



wrote by the Nabob's new consolidated creditors to the Governor and Select Committee, and also extract of their letter to the Court of Directors, recommending the business of the creditors to them. I act in it as a trustee for the Nabob, and our house are creditors to a considerable amount. The failure of payment from the Nabob (occasioned chiefly by the pressing calls upon him for money by the Company's agents here) has thrown the whole Settlement in the greatest distress imaginable, and unless some measure be taken by Government to procure satisfaction and relief to the creditors, who constitute the greatest part of the British subjects in this place and the other Settlements in India, it must end in their total ruin. As it is, there is hardly any trade subsisting in the place at present, and an entire loss of private credit and confidence.

"As this matter will merit the most serious attention on the part of the Company, may I beg your interest and assistance when it comes to be debated at a General Court or otherwise; in doing of which I assure you it will be rendering service to the cause of the English in India in general, and to this once flourishing Settlement in particular; and I dare say many in England will find themselves in a very disagreeable situation if the interest at least on this fund is not regularly discharged. . . ."

"JOHN D'FRIES."

[*Autograph, 2 pp., 4to. Duplicate.*]

[No. 335.]

THO[MAS] PALK to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1779, October 15th, Fort St. George.—"I have already informed you of the cause of my removal from the paymastership of Chinglaput. It was a cruel stroke upon me indeed. However, Sir, I flatter myself that you and Mr. Sullivan will endeavor to get me some appointment. I have been out of employ ever since, and see no probability of being otherwise, notwithstanding Mr. Rumbold has so often engaged his *word of honor* to serve me, and as often forfeited it. Never was a man so universally disliked. He employs people not in the service, and gives away places to the youngest servants which the oldest would grasp at; takes away places and gives it to others, and such like conduct. There is scarce a foot of land between this and Ganjam but he has sold. The Guntoor Circar the Nabob is to have, or has it. The Jaghire<sup>(1)</sup> in December last was advertised to be lett, but it did not take place, because of course the Nabob paid handsomely for it. But what could the country otherwise expect from a man of his stamp? The seeds of corruption have so effectually taken root that I do not think it possible to eradicate [them]. Gaming is arrived to that height that it requires the most vigorous measures to break the spirit of it, and to begin with the Select Committee. I dined with the

(1) *Vide* No. 118, p. 146, note 3.

Governor a few days ago, when he proposed a rubber, which of course was readily assented to. The party consisted of the Governor, Mr. Plumer,<sup>(1)</sup> Lieutenants Low and Malcolm<sup>(2)</sup>, which was scarce begun when dinner came upon table, and kept 60 people waiting for its being finished.

"The Circars will soon be in the state of the Nabob's country. The Zemindars were so very handsomely squeezed when they were called down last year that I hear the zemindaries are in a state of depopulation owing to the oppression of the Zemindars. Thus, Sir, you have but a slight view of our situation, though it may convey a strong idea. Mr. Cotsford will no doubt give you a better view of it than I am able, though not with more truth. The Company are sinking so very gradually step by step into mire as if they really intended it, and I am sure their affairs were never so well conducted as by a Governor and 12 Council,<sup>(3)</sup> for the less opposition a wicked Governor has to encounter, the more mischief he can do. You are a Proprietor, Sir, so therefore for the Company's sake become a Director. I shall then hope they may still be saved.

"You are indebted, Sir, to Mr. Floyer for his kindnesses to me, as I am sure it was on your account I received so much friendship from him. . . ."

"THO. PALK."

[*Holograph*, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 336.]

JOHN D'FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1780, January 16th, Madras.—"Three ships of Sir Edward Hughes's fleet are arrived, the *Superb*, *Eagle* and *Nymph*, which were sent forward with the sick of the squadron, being a great many. The rest of the fleet is expected in a week hence. Mr. Cuthbert<sup>(4)</sup> is come," so we shall tender money to him on your account for Navy bills. Mr. Stone's affairs here are not as he represented them to his creditors in England, and we shall not trouble ourselves with them unless we find that we can be of use to you and others.

"The Maratta war still continues. A few days ago 500 Europeans were sent away from hence to join Colonel Goddard<sup>(5)</sup> at Surat. This is an improper time to be quarrelling with the country Powers and with so powerful a one as the Marrattas. Hyder seem[s] to be only waiting for an opportunity to break with us. A great fire happened in November last at Bengal in the Company's warehouse, which burnt 18 lacks of rupees of

(1) Hall Plumer, a civil servant of 1769.

(2) Probably Henry Malcolm (or Malcombe) who entered the Madras army in 1767, and became lieutenant in 1770, and captain in 1779.

(3) Pigot's Council consisted of President and eleven members, including the C.-in-C.; Rumbold's of President and four civilian members.

(4) Arthur Cuthbert. *Vide* No. 57, p. 83, note 5.

(5) Colonel Thomas Goddard superseded Colonel Leslie in the command of a Bengal force which marched across India to Surat.

raw silk and piece goods. . . . The treasury at Bengal is very low. Here on the Coast they can hardly make both ends meet, the expences of fortification, etc., being very great. We have heard nothing of any French ships in the Indian seas since the taking of the *Osterley*.

“It is said that Mr. Rumbold is to leave us in the course of March next, having taken his passage on the *General Barker*. The Nabob desire[s] his compliments to you and for a continuance of your friendship. His affairs can hardly be worse than they are at present, the drain being continual, and the sources lessening every day. The divided interest in his family continues as great as ever notwithstanding the death of Maphauscawn,<sup>(1)</sup> which happened some months ago. . . .”

“JOHN D’FRIES.”

[*Autograph*, 2½ pp., 4to. *Duplicate*.]

[No. 337.]

THO[MAS] PALK to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1780, January 30th, Fort St. George.—“I had, Sir, flattered myself that your displeasure would have in some measure subsided by this time, and that you would have honored me with a renewal of your correspondence; but I am unhappy enough to find myself still lying under it, and unfortunately at a time that I have more need of your friendship than ever I had.” Being still without employment, I beg you to use your influence to procure me some appointment, such as a paymaster-ship or a seat in the Masulipatam Council. “Mr. R[umbold] has put me off ever since I was removed from Chinglaput with the strongest assurances of his serving me. Mr. Sullivan<sup>(2)</sup> has interposed in my behalf with him in an uncommon friendly manner, but without any other success than promises. In short, Sir, he is blind and deaf to every other consideration but that of establishing a strong interest at home; and I hope that if he does not do something for me, that he will repent he had not considered it an object to have acquired yours. I do, Sir, assure you that a King of France was never so absolute as he is here. Every thing he proposes is carried without the least opposition. He is now on the point of going home, and Mr. Whitehill will of course succeed. I could say a great deal, but at present it would not be prudent. I shall say this much, that the Company is sinking into ruin as fast as possible. . . .

“We have accounts that Colonel Goddard has at last taken the field against the Morattoes. A detachment has been sent from hence of 400 Europeans and 2 battalions of sepoys, but they cannot possibly reach Surat till the middle of February. Hyder-Ally, seeing how we are entangling ourselves, is growing very troublesome. A vessel in the month of November coming

(1) Mahfuz Khān, elder brother of Nawab Walajah.

(2) Stephen Sullivan (*Wide* No. 189, p. 205), son of Lawrence Sullivan, came to Madras about 1778 as Secretary and Persian Translator.



down the Malabar Coast was taken by one of his, and carried into Callicutt, with six gentlemen and three ladies<sup>(1)</sup> from Europe by Suez. And 'tis reported that he stopt by the same means Captain Bonneveau<sup>(2)</sup> and another gentleman with dispatches from the Company so late only as August.

“Mr. Grey,<sup>(3)</sup> that was once in the Bengal Council, has been pitched upon, in preference to a Company's servant, to go Ambassador to Hyder. He also had an employ at the siege of Pondicherry and at Mahé, when at least a dozen Company's servants were unemployed. But, Sir, this is nothing to other oppressive acts of Government.

“Sir E. Hughes arrived here with his squadron and nine Indiamen the 18th instant. He has this day presented his Majesty's letter to the Nabob. Sir Edward is extremely well and hearty, and Sir E. Vernon goes home in an Indiaman much displeased thereat. Dick Welland is now with me, and is very much esteemed by the Admiral and officers. He seems to think it better he had staid at home, as he would be more in the way of promotion.

“I send this by his Majesty's ship *Coventry* by way of Suez, though I am very doubtful of his reaching you safe, for the gentlemen that have lately come that way met with a great many difficulties. I have made a mistake, Sir. Captains Banks<sup>(4)</sup> and Bonnevaux<sup>(5)</sup> were coming from Bussora, and [were] taken by the Marattoes and not by Hyder-Ally.

“I shall esteem it a favor [if] you will send me a line for Mr. Whitehill. My wife is well, and joins me in presenting her respects to you and Mrs. Palk and love to my cousins. . . .”

“THO. PALK.”

[Holograph, 5 pp., 4to.]

[No. 338.]

JOHN D'FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1780, February 4th, Madras.—“This goes by way of Suez. The *Coventry* is sent there to demand satisfaction for the vexation committed by that Government last year on our people. Sir Edward Hughes arrived here with the rest of his ships on the

(1) The Danish ship *Nathalia*, from Suez to Bengal, put into Calicut, where she was seized by Haider; and her nine British passengers, including two ladies, were arrested. Anthony Fay, barrister, and his wife Eliza were confined at Calicut, and the remainder, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Tulloh, were carried to Seringapatam. All were released after about three months' detention. (*Original Letters from India*, Mrs. Fay. 1817.)

(2) Captain Bonnevaux was captured by the Marathas, as stated later in the letter.

(3) Mr. George Gray was sent to Seringapatam to ask for the release of the Calicut prisoners.

(4) George Banks, Madras Engineers, entered the service in 1774, and retired as Major in 1791.

(5) Peter Bonnevaux joined the Madras Infantry as Ensign in 1768. In 1782 Captain Bonnevaux commanded the detachment which sailed with Sir E. Hughes for the reduction of Trincomalee. He became Lieut.-Colonel in 1794, and died three years later.

19th ultimo. I applied to him for Navy bills on your account. He gave me a civil answer, but desired [me] to send in my tender, which I have accordingly done.

"Sir Thomas Rumbold<sup>(1)</sup> goes for certain on the *General Barker*, when we shall be left with Mr. Whitehill for our Governor. I hope nothing will happen to require the exertion of extraordinary abilities, for I believe they will not be found in our Council. The Maratta war continues still. They took lately Messrs. Bonnivaux and Banks, who were coming over with a packet from England, which they left in July last.

"Although I have not been able to go out on account of the inflammation in my eye, which has been a very severe attack on me, I have intimated to the Nabob what you desired me to communicate to him. His situation is rather worse, nor do I see any likelihood of its bettering." We reluctantly consented to act as attorneys for the trustees of Mr. Stone, but only till others can be appointed. "I am sorry to find that Mr. Stone's affairs are likely to turn out much worse than what was represented to you. We shall do the best with what little remains there are here. Colonel McLeane's executors sent out powers of attorney to Mr. Oakely,<sup>(2)</sup> Mr. Pelling and myself . . . which we refused, and would have nothing to say to it. . . . Your nephew Mr. Welland was made a lieutenant at the Madeira. . . ."

"JOHN D'FRIES."

[*Autograph*, 3 pp., 4to.]

[No. 339.]

STEPHEN SULIVAN to [ROBERT PALK, Esq.].

1780, February 5th, Fort St. George.—"I return you my sincere thanks for your obliging enquiries after Mrs. Sullivan's and my health. Mine, you will hear from Queen Square, has been exactly the same as when I partook of red mullets with you in Devonshire. I wish I could speak as favorably of Mrs. Sullivan, who has suffered severely indeed from this relaxing climate so inauspicious to women in general. She is, however, at present considerably recovered, and I trust with suitable care and attention will have no more relapses.

"On the arrival of Sir Edward Hughes, he scarce waited for an introduction of me to him, but took the first opportunity of mentioning your name and the friendly manner in which you had been pleased to express a sollicitude for my prosperity, adding at the same time on his own part he should be happy to forward my wishes in any way I would point out to him from the regard he had for his old friend Mr. Palk. . . . From my father's<sup>(3)</sup> letters I find you have been equally atten-

(1) Rumbold was created a baronet on the 27th March, 1779.

(2) *Vide* No. 196, p. 212, note 1.

(3) Lawrence Sulivan.

tive in desiring Mr. John De Fries to give me his confidence and advice. No man in the Settlement is better calculated for such a task from his local knowledge and long experience in business. . . .

"To my father's letters I refer you for particulars of my situation, as I have not a secret upon earth I wish concealed from you. You will there find how mistaken he was when he attributed to the Nabob any other motives of conduct than an artful policy operating from fear, without a single remembrance of past obligations, or a view to present favor but as it may prove a channel for the gratification of his ambition. Mr. Macpherson, who *must* write because he is *hired*, may employ volumes to *expiscate* (in his own elegant new coinage of words) the reverse; but men who have no restraints of this kind to warp or mislead their judgment are contented with the facts and the evidence before them.

"My father will likewise explain to you the reasons for my resigning the Persian Translatorship, which have the sanction of Mr. De Fries' approbation. When I was given to understand that not an iota of confidential communication was to pass through me, but that at best I was to be a mere letter carrier, it was time to recollect I had a commendable pride about me, which will prevent me, I hope always, from being insignificant. The profits of my place of Secretary are so scanty, and the expence of Madras since your time so increased, that it ceases any longer to be an object. In short, my dear Sir, I have laid such stress in my letters to my father on a seat in Council or the Residency of Tanjore<sup>(1)</sup> as the only two objects on this Coast that can enable me to acquire a competency, that I hope you will use every argument to persuade him to bring either of those points forward, that it may be settled in the new arrangements at home, and not left to be done here. . . ."

"STEPHEN SULIVAN."

[*Holograph*, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.]

[No. 340.]

GEORGE BAKER to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1780, February 7th, Fort St. George. Received December —, 1780.—"Although it is considered as very doubtful whether (after what has past) an Englishman may be suffered to pass unmolested through Egypt with a packet, yet our Government have found it necessary to make the trial, and for that purpose the Company's ketch<sup>(2)</sup> *Nancy* is to be dispatched this evening for Suez or else where in the Red Sea with one Mr. Woolley,<sup>(3)</sup> a gentleman in the Nabob's service. Such an opportunity

(1) Stephen Sullivan was appointed Resident at Tanjore by the Directors in 1780, but he resigned the post immediately to become personal assistant to Hastings in Bengal. He was succeeded in the Residency by John Sullivan.

(2) The "ketch" of the period was rigged as a brigantine.

(3) James Woolley, secretary to the Nawab.



offering, I mean to try if I can get this single sheet into that packet, just to acknowledge the receipt of your several favors by the ships that arrived here on the 18th ultimo under convoy of Sir Edward Hughes. . . .

“Sir Edward is in good health, and is the same good man as ever. Your nephew, Lieutenant Welland, got a commission at Madeira. He is a charming youth, modest, manly and discreet, and in good health and spirits. He has been on shore some days, and passes his time with his cousin Palk, Mr. Perring or myself, to either of which he is, as at many other friends’ he soon will be, welcome.”

Our Bengal friends are well, “as is your nephew Mr. T. Palk and family here. He has not indeed yet got an employ, but lives in hope of something soon. He is made happy by your kind remembrance of him, and will, I am clearly and fully persuaded, deserve your favor, which no doubt will be conferred on him. . . .

“As to publick affairs, you will be better informed by your other correspondents. I have only to wish that the Marattah war be not at this juncture found an arduous task. As to my personal affairs, I will not by this conveyance speak of them, . . . though I may perhaps touch on that subject by the March ships. Some time in that month the *General Barker*, *Ganges*, *Norfolk* and *Talbot* are to be dispatched from Bengal and this place for Europe, on some of which it is very confidently expected that Sir Edward Vernon and Sir Thomas Rumbold are to take their passage. . . .”

“GEORGE BAKER.”

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 341.]

MESSRS. PELLING & DE FRIES to ROBERT PALK, Esq.

1780, February 10th, Madras.—Contains particulars of remittances made to England by Navy bills and otherwise for Robert Palk and Robert Palk, jun., and of the latter’s risk on a Respondentia bond.

[2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 342.]

The Case of ROBERT PALK, jun., on board the *Surprise*.

[By Surgeon ADAM BURT.]

1783, April 3rd, Calcutta.—“Agreed to attend as surgeon to Robert Palk, Esq., during his voyage to Europe in the *Surprise* packet. This gentleman appears to be about 38 or 40 years of age. He is of a spare habit of body ; has been at least 20 years in India, and for the most part very healthy during that time. Mr. Campbell,<sup>(1)</sup> the Surgeon General, informs me that Mr. Palk has had more than one very severe fall within these last two or three years ; particularly once when he was walking on the

(1) Daniel Campbell, Surgeon General in Bengal

roof of a house, which in this country is generally flat ; it gave way under his feet, and he fell through from a very considerable height. From this his system in general received a shock, the effects of which confined him several days. However, no remarkable symptoms followed as a consequence immediately after this or any other accident which happened to him.

“ Mr. Campbell also informed me that, as Mr. Palk was riding on horseback some weeks ago, he suddenly fell to the ground without any apparent cause. The nearest medical assistants were instantly called : they found him in a state of insensibility, laying as if asleep. It was imagined that some injury had been received from the fall, and phlebotomy was performed. He gradually recovered his senses, but was affected with spasms, or as he himself expressed it, startings of the muscles of one side of his body. His face was also much distorted. Mr. Stark,<sup>(1)</sup> Surgeon at Calcutta, took more blood from him, but I do not know what medicines were prescribed. In two or three days after this first attack he was seized with a fit, which Mr. Campbell says was of the apoplectic or epileptic kind. Since then he has had several returns of epileptic fits.”

#### DIARY.

“ 16th April. Mr. Palk is in good spirits. The spasms of one side are not so frequent as usual, but his face is considerably distorted. He takes pills of assafœtida as prescribed for him by Mr. Campbell.

“ 17th. He says that ‘ he had a slight touch of his disorder last night, but he slept it away.’ Mr. Campbell and Mr. Stark thought it advisable to put a seton in his neck, which I have performed this day. He is pretty cheerful, but his tongue is swelled . . . and he pronounces his words with much difficulty.

“ 18th. This afternoon, as Mr. Palk and I were sitting on the quarter deck, he started up very suddenly from his seat, and without having time to utter a single word he fell down in violent convulsions, which continued near a quarter of an hour. . . . He soon recovered his senses, but continued very languid during the remainder of the day.” I prescribed camphor, antimony wine and assafœtida.

“ 21st. Very free from spasms ; pronounces his words with uncommon ease ; is cheerful. . . .

“ 23rd. Mr. Palk had a fit this morning.” I prescribed valerian root.

“ 26th. He had a fit this morning at 6 o’clock ; is very languid ; his tongue is exceedingly swelled. . . .” I gave camphor and valerian.

“ 29th. The spasms are abated, and the distortion of his face is scarcely perceptible.

“ 1st May. Mr. Palk is in excellent spirits.

“ 3rd. He is almost entirely free from spasms ; tongue not

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(1) Surgeon James Stark.

so much swelled, and he speaks with ease. I continue the camphor and valerian," and also the antimonial wine.

"4th. Mr. Palk appears as if in perfect health. Medicines as formerly.

"8th. The ease which Mr. Palk has enjoyed for some time is too soon interrupted. He had a fit this morning about four o'clock. . . .

"9th. Mr. Palk had another severe attack last night, and was extremely languid this morning.

"11th. The spasms of his muscles are very frequent, particularly of the right side of the body. . . .

"12th. Mr. Palk had another fit this morning. After the convulsions were over he remained comatose for a considerable time; is very languid. Medicines given as formerly. . . .

"13th. To-day he is in extraordinary good spirits; walked the deck in the evening for a considerable time, and is pretty free from spasms. . . .

"14th. Mr. Palk was seized with his disorder this morning about 5 o'clock. The convulsions were uncommonly severe. When these abated he remained without any signs of life for several minutes. . . . At length breathing succeeded, but that more laborious than I ever saw in any other case. By degrees it became more moderate, but he remained comatose, at least for the most part. He is now and then seized with violent convulsions, which gradually terminate in an universal tremor, and leaves him insensible. . . . In the evening the convulsions were very alarming. . . ." I accordingly bled him.

"15th. We have been becalmed these 2 or 3 days in 2 degrees N. latitude. Mr. Palk remains insensible and in a comatose state, but frequently seized with convulsions. . . .

"16th. Mr. Palk does not recover his senses in the least. . . ." I applied blisters to his temples.

"17th. He gives some signs of returning sensibility, but remains speechless. He is restless, and twists his body into many very awkward postures. . . .

"18th. During last night Mr. Palk appeared to be in great agony. His cries were dreadful. The unnatural exertions of his body were so great that it required two men to keep him in the cotte. . . . There is an universal tremor of the muscles. His pulse 80. . . .

"19th. He is still comatose; lies with his eyes open, but now and then he is seized with convulsions, which gradually terminate in tremors. . . . Pulse 100. . . . We are in 28 miles N. lat. and still becalmed."

"20th. Mr. Palk died about 4 o'clock p.m.

[*Holograph, unsigned. 10½ pp., 4to.*]



[No. 343.]

HENRY PRESTON<sup>(1)</sup> to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.<sup>(2)</sup>, Bruton Street, London.

1783, August 8th, Fort St. George.—“As you have always been so sincere a friend to me, I presume to inform you of my safe arrival here after a very prosperous voyage of four months and ten days. We sailed from England on the 11th of March, and touched at St. Jago about 3 weeks after. This was the only place we touched at : we staid there but three days. We met with nothing remarkable till we came in sight of the Coast, July 19th, and we came to an anchor on the 22nd.

“I was greatly surprised to hear of Hyder Alley’s death,<sup>(3)</sup> and also of Sir Eyre Coote’s, who died on his passage to Bengal by sea.<sup>(4)</sup> Hyder’s son Tipo Seib carries on the war at present. He is not above 40 miles from hence with all his horse. I hear that there is a cessation of arms for a month to take place, but I am not certain.

“There was an engagement the 22 of June between Sir Edward Hughes and Suffrein off Trincomale. I am not acquainted with the particulars, but I think we had 500 men killed, and the fleet came in here in a very shattered condition.

“I began to receive pay as soon as I came ashore. My pay is 18 pagodas per month . . . I have not had an opportunity to go to Bengal as yet, but I think I shall go in a few days . . .”

“HENRY PRESTON.”

“P.S.—I return you my most grateful acknowledgements for the genteel station your goodness has placed me in.”

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to. Wax seal, defaced.*]

[No. 344.]

DR. ADAM BURT to MESSRS. JAMES & DAVID WEBSTER,  
Leadenhall Street.

1783, September 10th, Limerick, Ireland,—“I was ordered by the Governor and Council of Bengal to attend as surgeon to Robert Palk, Esq., during his voyage from thence to Europe. Accordingly I embarked along with him on board the *Surprise* packet, and we sailed in April. This gentleman had been attacked with an epilepsy, from which, in the opinion of the most experienced medical practitioners in Calcutta, he could not recover in India. I am sincerely sorry to add that his disease defeated my utmost efforts to preserve him. He died about a month after we left Bengal.

(1) Henry Preston entered the Bengal Army as a cadet in 1783, and died in 1791 at Dinapore.

(2) Robert Palk was created a baronet on the 19th June, 1782.

(3) Haider Ali expired at Chittoor on the 7th December, 1782.

(4) Sir Eyre Coote died at Madras on the 27th April, 1783, three days after his arrival from Bengal.

"I proposed to have set off immediately for London, where I might have communicated the intelligence in person to some of Mr. Palk's relations. But I think it is necessary for me to remain here till I shall hear from them. I will be happy if Capt. Asquith of the *Surprise* has given a satisfying account of matters. I am much afraid, however, that he has not acted with becoming delicacy as a person to whom devolved the charge of effects belonging to a gentleman of very extensive concerns. The captain opened the bureau and escritoire of the deceased, and took into his possession what papers he thought proper. I advised him to call some gentlemen to witness and sign an attestation of the propriety of his proceedings. This he neglected.

"Major Macgowane<sup>(1)</sup> came a passenger in this ship. He will wait on Mr. Palk's relations in England as soon as he can conveniently after his arrival there. I need not now enlarge on the many improprieties of Capt. Asquith's conduct with regard to Mr. Palk. The Major will give them a more particular account of circumstances which render my stay here for a little while adviseable. I write this in a hurry just as the ship is coming to an anchor, lest Mr. Palk's relations should take any measures in consequence of the captain's letters without making farther enquiry.

"The friends of Mr. Palk may command my services towards procuring all the papers of the deceased, if possible, and to forward the other effects as they shall direct. If, however, it is deemed necessary for me to interfere, a method must be adopted with which the captain cannot elude a ready and implicit compliance.

"Mr. Palk had a Bengal and a European servant on board. The former was promised a passage out again to India. The latter has not yet received any wages. They both wait here, and will proceed agreeable to directions. Meantime I supply them with what money is necessary for their subsistence.

"My stay in England cannot be long. I wish to wait on Mr. Palk's relations, and on many accounts am anxious to get to London. I hope there will be as little delay as possible, at least after the arrival of Major Macgowane.

"Now, Gentlemen, as the captain conceals every information he has derived from the perusal of Mr. Palk's papers, I do not even know the address of any of his relations. Permit me to request of you to communicate the above as expeditiously as possible. . . ."

"ADAM BURT."

[*Holograph, 4 pp., Ho.*]

(1) Major John McGowan. Vide No. 350, p. 343, note 1.

[No. 345.]

DR. ADAM BURT to MAJOR J. MCGOWAN.

*“Memorandum for Major Macgowane from his very obedient servant Adam Burt.”*

N.D. [1783, circa September 10th.]—“As you mean to wait on Mr. Palk’s relations in England, . . . I trust that you will communicate to them the various improprieties of Capt. Asquith’s behaviour. Without doubt his claims on my account will not escape attention. You are no stranger to the unjustifiable manner by which Mr. Palk was compelled to promise to Capt. Asquith the payment of 1,500 rupees for my passage after our embarkation and notwithstanding the sum which Mr. Palk had already given. Besides, the table for Capt. Asquith and his officers has been kept during the voyage entirely at the expence of Mr. Palk, excepting the stores which you brought on board. If Mr. Palk’s relations do not dispute the payment of the above 1,500 rupees, they will certainly treat the captain with very undeserved generosity. I shall not be surprised if Capt. Asquith retains in his possession the money he found in Mr. Palk’s *escritoire*, thinking in that way to be sure of payment. If Mr. Palk’s relations shall view this claim of the captain in the light in which it appears to me as an unprejudiced person, I will in that case make Capt. Asquith my debtor for attendance on the sick of the ship’s company during the passage to Europe, and request of Mr. Palk’s friends to delay payment of Capt. Asquith till my bill shall be discharged.

“You was present when the captain solicited me to attend the sick people on board. When I complied it was by no means from any pecuniary motives. Afterwards, however, I could understand from Mr. Palk’s conversation that he meant to advise me to some measures similar to the above.

“But if Mr. Palk’s relations, after your explanation of the affair, shall on the contrary be of opinion that it is not worth while to elude the payment of 1,500 to Capt. Asquith in addition to the 10,000 which Mr. Palk already paid, then my claim may be laid aside, for I only desire by that means to compel the captain to what Mr. Palk’s relations may deem equitable.”

[*Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to. Endorsed in Sir R. Palk’s hand*]

“Mr. Burt’s letter by Major McGowan, and inventory of Mr. Palk’s stores.”

[*Enclosure.*]

“After the death of Mr. Robert Palk on board the *Surprise* Capt. Asquith opened the bureau and *escritoire* of the deceased. I observed that the following articles were contained therein, and I instantly made a memorandum of it :—Gold mohurs, 72 ; rupees, 398 ; guineas, 11 ; English silver coin, 13 shillings ; small gold pieces, 8 ; four bags supposed to contain gold chequins, and marked A, B, C, D ; a small box supposed to contain gold, addressed to Messrs. John Grant and Thomas Hinchman in



Berners Street, London; 3 gold watches, chains and a variety of seals; 1 silver watch; 1 pair gold sleeve buttons; a gold stockbuckle; a diamond breastbuckle; a silver stock-buckle; a variety of pocket books and papers contained in them; a Persian seal ring set in silver; 2 pairs silver shoe-buckles; 2 sapphire rings; one brilliant diamond ring; 1 hoop ring; several miniature pictures; Voltaire's works in English, volumes 39.

*"List of Mr. Palk's Stores transcribed from the original in possession of his European servant."*

Nos.		Nos.	
1 & 2	Chests of Rice, 12 Maunds.	66	Jar of Dates.
3	Chest of Waters.	67	Box of Curry Stuffs.
4	Lime and Mango Shrub, 4 doz. of each.	68	Europe Sweetmeats.
5	Waters.	69	Sugar, 20 seer.
6	Cherutes, 32,000.	70 to 75	Rice.
7	" in Bagfuls.	76 to 89	Paddy for the Fowls.
8 & 9	Four pipes of Rum.	90 to 92	Saltpetre.
10	Contains 2 doz. Brandy, 2 doz. Rum, 15 Bottles of Lime Juice, and 6 bottles of Barley.	93	Contains 2 case bottles of Gin, 1 silver Teapot . . . 1 silver Sauce pan, 1 smaller do., a silver Coffee-pot, 5 bottles of Coffee, one silver Plate, a silver Bowl, 6 parcels of Tobacco, Spoons, Knives, Forks, Plates, Cups, Wine glasses, etc.
11 to 20	Potatoes.	94	Ghee, 15 seer.
21 to 24	Yams.	95	Wax Candles, also 1000 Eggs.
25	Contains 6 Hams and 5 Tongues.	96	Cotte and Bedding.
26 to 29	Sugar Candy.	97 & 98	Salt and Tamarinds.
30	Europe Pickles.	99	Wax Candles, Cloves, Cinnamon, Nutmeg, small Box of Essences.
31	Sago.	100	Walnuts.
32 to 40	Biscuits.	101	Chest of Silver Plate, 30 different articles, and 2 doz. of Knives and Forks.
41	Contains 1 Saddle, 2 Bridles, 2 Pistols, some Powder and Shot.	102	Shaving Box, Washing Bason and Bottle.
42	10 doz. Madeira, 20 bottles of Hock, and 3 of white Brandy.	103	Walnuts.
43	4 doz. and 10 bottles of Cyder, 21 bottles of Rum, and 22 of Mango Shrub.	104	Chalk.
44	12 doz. of Claret.	105 to 108	Sugar Candy.
45	Chest of Waters.	109	Bag of Coffee.
46	Contains 12 doz. of Porter.	110	Linen; also some pieces of India Cloth.
47	2 doz. of Vinegar, 2 doz. of Lime Juice, 1 doz. of Sweet Oil and 6 bottles of Mustard.	111 to 113	Linen.
48	Box of Limes.	114	Cloathes, Linen.
49 & 50	Mango Pickles, 1800.	115	Linen.
51	Onions.	116	Settee.
52	Raisins.	117	Box of various necessities.
53	Sweetmeats and Limes.	118	Tea and Coffee.
54	Bamboo Pickles.	119	Linen and Cloaths.
55 & 56	Onions.	120	Box of Hats, and a Firelock.
57	Ginger and Garlick.	121	Coats and Linen.
58	Preserved Tamarinds.	122	Books.
59	20 Bottles of Butter.	—	1 Bureau, 2 Chairs, a Table, an Escrtoire, 2 Glass Lamps, a filtering Stone.
60	Biscuit.		
61	10 bottles of Tamarind Syrup, 10 do. of Honey.		
62	Butter, 16 jars.		
63	Portable Soup and Sweetmeats.		
64 & 65	Gingerbread Nuts.		

*Live Stock.* 12 Turkeys, 26 Geese, 30 Ducks, 220 Fowls, 30 Sheep, 8 Goats, 6 Kids, 10 Hogs, 5 Deer.

"A true copy. ADAM BURT."

[Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.]

[No. 346.]

D[AVID] ASQUITH to [SIR] ROBERT PALK, Bruton Street, London.

1783, September 12th. *Surprise* packet, Limerick. Received 14th October.—"I am sorry to inform you of the death of Mr. Robert Palk, who departed this life May 21st on his passage to Europe. Mr. John Nimmo, who goes up with the packet, will inform you of the particulars. He has left sundry articles on board, consisting of plate, some money in Venetians,<sup>(1)</sup> and wearing apparel. He has two servants. I shall be glad of your instructions for sending those things round to you, or in what manner you chuse to have them disposed off. Mr. Burt was ordered to attend him home as doctor, for whose passage Mr. Palk agreed to pay 1,500 Rs. He has mentioned it in a small diary he kept while alive, and he likewise mentioned it to the doctor and Major McGowan."

"D. ASQUITH."

[Holograph, 1 p., 4to. Wax seal, defaced.]

[No. 347.]

DR. ADAM BURT to [SIR] ROBERT PALK.

1783, September 16th, Limerick. Received 3rd October.—"Immediately after my arrival at this place I wrote to Messrs. Websters, enclosing a letter which I hope they will forward without delay. As I did not then know your address, I was obliged to take that method of communicating to his friends the death of Robert Palk, Esq., on board the *Surprise* packet bound from Bengal to Europe. He had been attacked with an epilepsy, and on that account quitted India. I was ordered by the Governor and Council of Bengal to attend a[s] surgeon to that gentleman during his voyage to Europe. You may readily conceive how much the fatal termination of his disease is to me a subject of regret.

"In the letter to which I allude I also mentioned that the captain of the ship had conducted himself with great impropriety, in my opinion, with regard to the effects of the deceased, and that I was determined to stay here till I should hear from the relations, and endeavour to procure for them a satisfying account of matters. I am happy to say that I believe the property of Mr. Palk on board the *Surprise* is now in security. The captain is now sensible of what a serious nature the irregularities of his conduct were, and he has adopted measures with which I readily coincided because I thought they tended to the preservation of Mr. Palk's effects. Everything which belonged to that gentleman remaining on board the *Surprise* packet was locked up and sealed in presence of Captain Asquith, two officers of the ship, Mr. Louch, agent for Colonel Watson in Bengal, the owner of the ship, the late Mr. Palk's servants, and myself. The money, the diamond rings and pearls, also all the kees are

<sup>(1)</sup> Sequins.

deposited with Mr. Lyons, agent for the India Company in this place.

"I am sorry that I referred for a just account of the business to Major Macgowane, who came a passenger in the *Surprise*. He said that he had business with Mr. Palk's relations, and at any rate intended to wait on them. The Major had a dispute with the captain at sea, but they both behaved with civility to each other afterwards. I relied so far on the Major as to believe that in a matter of such importance to me he would represent things impartially. But I am surprised to find that before he left this place he gave an exaggerated account of the improprieties of Captain Asquith's behaviour to the agent for the Company. The bad conduct of the captain does not require to be magnified. . . . It is therefore necessary for me to say that my memorandums with which I have entrusted Major Macgowane are to be relied on as conveying my sentiments. . . .

"When Captain Asquith opened the bureau and escritoire of the deceased, it was in the presence of Major Macgowane and myself, and the watches, rings and other trinkets I saw sealed up. But the captain appeared to me to be most culpable in not taking an inventory of the papers which he took into his possession, though I advised him to it. That neglect first awakened in me suspicions of the captain's intentions, and the imputing it to an impertinent curiosity in him to peruse private papers is perhaps the best construction which it will bear. Several expressions which the captain used increased my doubts as to his honesty. . . .

"Mr. Palk's servants are now gone on board to keep an eye over every thing which belonged to their late master. But as they entertained the same ideas as to the captain's intentions that I did, they would not remain in the ship till affairs were more regularly gone about, lest they should be deemed answerable for any thing which might afterwards be missed.

"I will willingly proceed agreeable to directions, and will forward or carry along with me every thing belonging to Mr. Palk with the greatest care in case I shall be so authorized. . . ."

"ADAM BURT."

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 348.]

DR. ADAM BURT to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1783, October 3rd, Limerick.—I have just received your letter of the 22nd September in reply to mine of the 10th, but I shall remain here until I get your answer to mine of the 16th. I have no wish to injure Captain Asquith, but there are circumstances which render me suspicious of him.

"Captain Asquith commanded a small vessel some time ago in India. She was bound from Bengal to Madrass with a cargo of rice, and insured for the voyage at the risque of a society



in which Mr. Palk was principally concerned. The captain thought proper to call at Trincomallee with a view, as was said, to get a good price for some commodity of his own. The ship was taken from that circumstance, and the owners lost their property, who certainly had great reason to blame Captain Asquith. This account I had from Mr. Palk himself. I could clearly understand from the captain's conversation that he had perused Mr. Palk's papers about that bussiness, and he hinted that the claim upon the underwriters would probably be renewed. Since we arrived here I accompanied the captain to see all Mr. Palk's effects on board sealed up. . . . I then insisted that the papers, which the captain brought from his own trunk, should be put up by themselves, and that he should mark them accordingly, with which he complied.

"The captain talked of exposing letters for Sir Thomas Rumbold directed to be delivered by Mr. Palk into the hands of Sir T. or his uncle. He threatened to flog Mr. Palk's servant to oblige him to give up a list of Mr. Palk's stores," though a copy would have served every purpose. "I hope soon to elucidate more fully the cause of my proceedings . . . when I shall have the honour of a personal interview with you."

"ADAM BURT."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 349.]

DR. ADAM BURT to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1783, October 6th, Limerick.—I shall remain here for a few days longer in the hope of receiving definite instructions from you respecting the effects of your nephew. I fear you have found it difficult to form a just opinion from the captain's communications, the reports of Major McGowan and the 1st mate, and my own letters. "I was afraid that the Major was influenced too much by prejudice against the captain, and might perhaps advise you to measures which . . . would in the end turn out abortive. I understood that before the Major left this place he shewed the memorandums with which I had entrusted him . . . to different gentlemen here, and endeavoured by them to corroborate his own accounts, which were that the captain had certainly embezzled the property of the late Mr. Palk. I readily submit to your decision when you shall have arrived at a thorough knowledge of this bussiness, whether or not the cautions were proper which I gave against the prejudice that influenced the Major."

As regards the captain's claim for 150*l.* for my passage, I suggest your delaying decision until you have examined your nephew's papers. . . .

"ADAM BURT."

[*Holograph, 3½ pp., 4to.*]

[No. 350.]

MAJOR J. MCGOWAN<sup>(1)</sup> to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1783, October 10th, London.—“I had the honor to receive your letter of the 6th instant. . . . I was present at the opening of Mr. Palk’s papers to look for a will, but none, I believe, was found by the captain of the ship. From a knowledge that I had of your nephew’s method and attention to his affairs, and that he knew the dangerous tendency of his complaint, I must own I felt greatly disappointed in my expectations in not finding either a will or memorandum which could give the desired information. When you arrive in town I will do myself the honor to wait on you.”

“J. MCGOWAN.”

[Holograph, 1½ p., 4to.]

[No. 351.]

DR. ADAM BURT to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1783, October 14th, Limerick.—“Last night I was favoured with your letter of the 4th October. . . . Captain Asquith at first made objections to delivering any thing over to my charge . . . principally because you sent no order directly to him. Captain Hall, who resides in this town, acquaints me that he is desired by you to assist me . . . By his advice Captain Asquith consents to deliver to me the money and papers.

“Mr. Louch, agent for the ship, positively refuses to allow any of the effects of the late Mr. Palk to be carried round to England in the *Surprise*, Limerick being the destined port. I shall therefore provide boats, and . . . will superintend the landing of Mr. Palk’s effects. They must be deposited in the Custom House here till some person authorized by you shall demand and forward them in a vessel bound for London. Probably there may be some things which are seizable. I am informed that you can procure an order for the Collector here to deliver the effects to be forwarded to the India House. . . . Captain Hall promises his services.

“I really do not know whether or not Mr. Palk left any will. On the 14th May he was seized with violent convulsions, and continued totally insensible . . . till the 20th. Consequently he gave no directions. . . . It was thought that the papers were not safe in any part of the ship : they were accordingly landed, and have remained sealed up in the Custom House. . . . I propose to set off for London two days after this.”

“ADAM BURT.”

[Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.]

(1) John McGowan entered the Bengal infantry as lieutenant in 1767. On becoming major in 1781 he accompanied Colonel Pearse’s force in its march from Midnapur to Madras. He was promoted lieutenant-colonel in 1788.

[No. 352.]

SOBER HALL to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1783, October 14th, Limerick.—“ I was favoured last night with your letter of the 4th of this month, and have advised Mr. Burt to get what things are with the captain at Mr. Lyons’s, and proceed with them to you, as I hear they are mostly the papers of your deceased nephew, and may be of much consequence. I find that Mr. Louch, the agent for Colonel Watson, who[m] the ship belongs to, has ordered all the chests, trunks, etc., that are now on board to be sent up to the Custome House here, refusing to let them go round in the ship. . . . I will do all I can to forward them to London by the first convenience after I shall receive your orders. Mr. Burt goes down tomorrow morning to bring them up. Should there be any muslins, etc., which might be me[a]nt by my late worthy friend as presents to his relations, I perhaps may be able to get them out here without much difficulty, or you might get an order from the Tre[a]sury to the Commissioner of the Customes to let them be resh[p]ed here without their being opened. . . .”

“ SOBER HALL.”

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 353.]

JAMES LYONS to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1783, October 15th, Limerick.—“ It having been represented to me by Major McGouan and Mr. Burt that part of the effects of the late Mr. Palk on board was in cash, I gave it as my opinion to have it brought on shore and deposited in the Custom House or in some safe hands, . . . as I could not answer for its safety on board, where the vessell lay 20 miles down our river. Accordingly the purser of the ship, Mr. Louch, the captain and Mr. Burt brought it up, and in Mr. Burt’s presence were sealed up: and agreeable to your letter they shall be handed to Mr. Burt. . . .”

“ JAMES LYONS.”

[*Autograph*, 1¼ pp., 4to.]

[No. 354.]

Certificate by DR. ADAM BURT.

1783, October 16th, Limerick. At my request Mr. William Douglas, merchant, of Limerick, attended yesterday on board the *Surprise* as a witness to my protest to Captain Asquith and Mr. Louch against landing the effects of Mr. Palk. After I had protested a boat was brought alongside and loaded with the goods by the seamen.

“ ADAM BURT.”

Attested by “ WILLIAM DOUGLAS.”

[1 p., *flscp.*]



[No. 355.]

Certificate by DR. ADAM BURT.

1783, October 17th, Limerick.—Mr. Louch, agent for Colonel Watson, having refused to carry the effects of the late Mr. Palk to London or any part of England, and having insisted on sending them ashore here, I certify that I protested against their being landed.

“ ADAM BURT.”

Certified to be a true statement.

“ SOBER HALL.”

[ $\frac{1}{2}$  p., *flscp.*]

[No. 356.]

D[AVID] ASQUITH to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1783, October 17th, Limerick.—I am surprised to learn from Mr. Burt that you have received no letter from me. I wrote by Mr. John Nimmo, my chief mate, who carried the Company's dispatches and a bundle of letters addressed to the care of the late Mr. Palk. I instructed Mr. Nimmo to call on you in Bruton Street and give you a detailed account of the effects of Mr. Palk. “ Why he has not waited on you or delivered my letter remains a mystery to me. If you please to send to the Swan with Two Neck[s] in Lad Lane,<sup>(1)</sup> where I find Mr. Nimmo is to be heard of, possibly the above letters may be recovered. Some of them, I believe, contained bills of exchange belonging to the particular friends of Mr. Palk.

“ Your not receiving any advices from me must no doubt appear very strange to you. I have only to request you will be kind enough to suspend forming any unfavourable opinion of me till I have the honour of seeing you. . . . I have received orders to bring the ship round to London, and now only wait for a favourable wind to proceed. . . .”

“ D. ASQUITH.”

[*Holograph*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  p., 4to.]

[No. 357.]

DR. ADAM BURT to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1783, October 31st, London.—“ This day I have deposited the effects of your nephew, which I brought from Limerick, in your house in Bruton Street, where I had the honour to receive yours of the 27th instant. You only desired me to bring the articles which were deposited with Mr. Lyons, but Captain Hall concurring with me in opinion that it would give you satisfaction to get the papers as soon as possible, I have also brought all of them that were placed in the Custom House on the 16th ultimo.

“ I do not wonder that you are surprized at Mr. Louch's behaviour. He and Mr. Lyons, agent for the Company, are

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(1) Now Gresham Street, E.C.

joined agents for Colonel Watson in Bengal, the proprietor of the vessel. . . .

"I saw 32 packages delivered over to Mr. Sexton Bayllee, Surveyor of the Port of Limerick, among which are a large box for Francis Roberts,<sup>(1)</sup> at Dr. Lawrence's, Essex Street, Strand, and a small box for Mrs. Elizabeth Ironside, at Twickenham, Middlesex, both by favour of Mr. Palk. The effects were delivered to the Surveyor with the seals entire which had been put on on the 16th ultimo. I was not a little astonished to find almost all the seals broken . . . the next day after they were landed. . . . In presence of Mr. Louch and Captain Hall I requested permission again to seal up all the packages, which the Surveyor refused me. He said it was dark when the effects were landed, and the seals might have been broken off by the porters; but he insisted on immediately inspecting all the packages, and that he himself would open them if no other person would be present to superintend it. I told him that I was not answerable for the consequences of landing the effects, yet I would do all in my power towards their preservation, and had witnessed their being delivered over to him to be deposited in the King's stores merely as a place of security. That I would immediately make an affidavit concerning his proceedings, which, if you pleased, might be laid before the Commissioners. This surely alarmed him, for next day he requested of me to seal up all the packages, to which I consented, at the same time observing that sealing them up at that time would not supersede my affidavit, which I made accordingly.

"Before I left Limerick the Surveyor had set off for Dublin. He gave out that he would lay before the Commissioners information concerning the contents of Mr. Palk's packages," based on statements of Mr. Louch. I represented to the Collector of Limerick that Mr. Louch could not know anything about the contents.

"I had so much luggage that I could not possibly bring any of Mr. Palk's servants along with me. Mr. Louch and Captain Asquith had no objection to carry them round in the ship. The European will probably take another mode of conveyance. The Indian proposed officiating as servant to the 2nd mate till their arrival in London, which I encouraged, as I thought it would ensure him protection."

"ADAM BURT."

"P.S.—I am to be heard of at Messrs. Websters."

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 358.]

HENRY McMAHON to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street, London.

1783, November 2nd, Limerick. —I have been engaged by Dr. Burt to look after the effects of Mr. Palk. Directly after

<sup>(1)</sup> Francis Roberts a relative of Mrs. Letitia Ironside.

Dr. Burt's departure, Mr. Baillie went to Dublin to see the Commissioners, and on his return made a seizure of the effects. He falsely asserts that Dr. Burt offered him 500*l.* to give up the goods. I propose to file a claim tomorrow lest the effects should be forthwith condemned, though I am not able to comply with all legal requirements; but I hope you will depute a person who can make a claim in accordance with the Act, of which I enclose an abstract. I have already sent a memorial to the Commissioners praying for a postponement of proceedings pending investigation.

"The Speaker of our House of Commons (Mr. Pery) is Baillie's relation and patron, but would by no means countenance him in an act of injustice. I therefore take the liberty to recommend to you either to write yourself, or procure some other gentleman of consequence who may know Mr. Pery, to represent this matter in its true light. If this is done, I have little doubt that Baillie would instantly be checked in his career, which may save much expence. . . ."

"HENRY McMAHON."

[*Holograph*, 2¼ pp., 4to. *Wax seal*.]

*Enclosure.* Extract from Statute 19 and 20 Geo. III, cap. 12, secs. 1 and 2.

[1 p., 4to.]

[No. 359.]

SOBER HALL to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street, London.

1783, November 3rd, Limerick.—"Finding the goods at the Custome House that were sent from the *Surprise* are to be condemned and sold as a legal seizure, I have directed Mr. Henry McMahon, Attorney at Law, to send a petition and a copy of the affidavit sworn to by Mr. Burt to the Commissioners of the Customs at Dublin, in hopes . . . they will give further time, so that you may have an opportunity to make such application and send over such instructions as you think proper. . . ."

"SOBER HALL."

[*Autograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 360.]

WILLIAM DOUGLAS to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., M.P., Bruton Street, London.

1783, November 3rd, Limerick.—Encloses a letter for Dr. Burt, which, in case of the doctor's absence, is to be opened by Sir R. Palk.

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to. *Wax seal*.]

[No. 361.]

HENRY McMAHON to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street, London.

1783, November 4th, Limerick.—"I yesterday got at the Custom House a copy of the seizing note lodged for the goods in the stores, and found it dated the 15th of October, being about



the day the goods were landed, though I am convinced it was not filed until yesterday morning; but it was intended so as that the time for claiming may expire before you could possibly have an opportunity of putting in a claim according to the Act, of which I sent you an abstract.

"I instantly tendered a claim such as the nature of the case would admit of. It was peremptorily refused, . . . not being according to law. I immediately prepared and sent off by Post Office express a memorial to the Commissioners. . . . I refer you for further particulars to . . . copies of the seizing note, memorial and claim herewith sent."

"HENRY McMAHON."

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to. Wax seal.*]

[*Enclosures.*]

No. 1.—Copy of seizing note, dated Port Limerick, 15th October, 1783. Signed by S. Baylie, Surveyor, and addressed to George Maunsell, Esq., Collector.

No. 2.—Copy of claim by Henry McMahon as agent for the owner, Sir Robert Palk, dated Port of Limerick, 3rd November, 1783.

No. 3.—Copy of further memorial by Henry McMahon to the Chief Commissioners of Revenue, praying that the claim may be admitted.

[ $1\frac{1}{2}$  p., *flscp.*]

[No. 362.]

WILLIAM DOUGLAS to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street, London.

1783, November 7th, Limerick. Encloses a letter for Dr. Burt, which, in case of the doctor's absence, is to be opened by Sir R. Palk.

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to. Wax seal.*]

[No. 363.]

SOBER HALL to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street, London.

1783, November 8th, Limerick. —I write for Mr. McMahon to say that the Commissioners have granted time for the submission of a proper claim. You might send Dr. Burt over to make the claim. "Thus far is Mr. Bailie disappointed, who flattered himself with the notion of accelerating matters so as to have the goods condemned and sold before there would be either a claim or trial. . . ."

"SOBER HALL."

[*Holograph, 1 p., 4to.*]

[No. 364.]

WILLIAM YOUNG to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., M.P., Bruton Street, London.

1783, November 9th, Limerick.—“Honoured Sir, I am given to understand your honour is heir to my late master, Robert Palk, Esq. I think it my duty to acquaint you with the particulars which were taken of his stores after his disease. I would have acquainted your honour sooner, but Capt. Asqueth has not sailed for London till last Thursday. . . . I have a particular account of the contents of each of my late master's trunks and effects of every kind, as they were all committed to my charge since they left India till landed and lodged in this Custom House. . . . I request your honour will be pleased to send me directions whether I am to remain with the effects till they proceed to London, or how I am to conduct myself. At present I am at the house of Mr. William Douglas of this town. . . .”

“WILLIAM YOUNG.”

[Autograph, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  p., 4to. Wax seal.]

[Enclosures.]

No. 1.—Copy of “List of Mr. Palk's stores.”

[2 pp., 4to.]

No. 2.—“A list of stores belonging to my late master, Robert Palk, Esq., expended after his disease by order of Capt. Asqueth.<sup>(1)</sup> . . .”

“WILLIAM YOUNG.”

[Autograph, 1 p., flesc.]

[No. 365.]

WILLIAM DOUGLAS to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street, London.

1783, November 11th, Limerick.—“Inclosed you have a copy of the Board's letter to the Collector. Never the less Mr. Baylie, Port Surveyor, entered the stores yesterday in company with Mr. James Lyons, merchant in this town, broke open every chest and package belonging to Mr. Palk, runmaged and tossed the whole of his effects.

“William Young, Mr. Palk's servant, is the bearer of this . . .”

“WILLIAM DOUGLAS.”

[Holograph, 1 p., 4to.]

[Enclosure.]

Copy of letter from the Board of Customs to George Maunsell, Esq., Collector of Customs, Limerick, dated Dublin, 6th November, 1783. “The Board direct that the trial be delayed and a proper time given for making a legal claim.”

[1 p., 4to.]

(1) Among the articles expended were—4 doz. brandy, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  doz. madeira, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  doz. waters, 7 doz. shrub, 8 doz. porter, 1 60-gal. cask of rum broached, 6 tubs sugar candy, 1 bag cheroots, 2 bags walnuts, 15 sheep, 6 goats, 4 kids, 3 hogs, 3 turkeys, 24 geese, and 72 fowls,

[No. 366.]

1783, November 15th, London.—Deposition of ADAM BURT sworn before WILLIAM PECKHAM, Lord Mayor, setting forth the circumstances of the landing of Mr. Palk's effects, and their delivery into the charge of Mr. Sexton Baylie.

[1½ p., *flsep.*]

[No. 367.]

DR. ADAM BURT to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1783, November 30th, London.—“I have reason for believing that Captain David Asquith, of the *Surprise* packet, intends to claim 1,500 rupees on account of my passage, and in addition to the sum which Mr. Palk advanced to him in Bengal. There was not any surgeon belonging to the vessel. At the intreaty of the captain I attended the sick of the ship during the passage. Surely it must be granted that in a ship of so considerable force the assistance of a surgeon in time of war is an adequate recompence for the room he occupies on board. I used no other provisions during the voyage but what had been provided at the particular expence of Mr. Palk. I hope therefore that you will not attend to the above demand of the captain till he shall have consented sufficiently to reward me.”

“ADAM BURT.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 368.]

WILLIAM YOUNG to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1783, December 16th, Limerick.—I have the pleasure to inform your honour that the goods are delivered up, and are ready for conveyance to Dublin and thence to the India House. The only cause of delay is Mr. Baylie's bill of expenses, which Captain Hall declines to pay until Mr. McMahon can learn from the Commissioners what amount is just.

“WILLIAM YOUNG.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 369.]

SOBER HALL to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1784, January 14th, Limerick.—“At last we have been able to get all the chests, etc., out of the Custome House here, and they went off for Dublin under the care of your late nephew's servant (who has behaved with great propriety and attention) and a Custome House officer for Dublin. . . . I enclose you a list of the plate and the other articles [of] that seazable nature for your satisfaction and guide when they arrive at the India House. . . .”

“SOBER HALL.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]



[No. 370.]

GEO[RGE] MAUNSELL to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1784, January 15th, Limerick.—I received orders from the Revenue Commissioners to forward your nephew's goods to Dublin as soon as Mr. Baylie's account was paid. The account was settled for 40*l.* by your friend Captain Hall and your attorney, for which I accepted a bill drawn by William Young on Mr. T. Maunsell,<sup>(1)</sup> as instructed by you. Mr. Hall and I decided that some of the sea stores, which were not worth the cost of carriage, should be sold. They realized over 37*l.* The remaining articles are now on their way to Dublin, and I have asked Mr. Maunsell to forward them thence to London without delay.

"GEO. MAUNSELL."

[*Holograph*, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  p., 4to.]

[No. 371.]

D[AVID] ASQUITH to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bruton Street, London.

1784, January 21st, Ship *Surprise*, Downs.—I am surprised to learn from your letter of the 17th January that the things have not been delivered. I have written to Mr. Louch on the subject. The delay is by no fault of mine.

"D. ASQUITH."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to. *Wax seal with arms.*]

[No. 372.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1784, February 2nd, Fort St. George.—"This will be delivered to you by Captain Tod with my little boy Tom. The enclosed paper contains a list of the clothes I have sent with him, meant more as a check upon the servant than any thing else, who is a man that never was employed upon such an occasion before. . . . For Tom's passage I have paid 500 pags., which is more than hath of late been paid for such children, so that I hope the captain will make no farther demand on his account."

"THO. PALK."

"P.S.—The garrison of Palagaut-Cherry, a fort taken during the cessation of hostilities (and after the Embassy<sup>(2)</sup> had set out) by Colonel Fullarton,<sup>(3)</sup> was, in its return to join him,

(1) Thomas Maunsell was in 1757 one of the Agents for the Army in Bengal.

(2) The Commissioners deputed to Mangalore to negotiate with Tipu. *Vide* No. 378, p. 355, note 1.

(3) Lieut.-Colonel William Fullarton, commanding H.M. 98th Regt., defended Negapatam against the French in 1782. On promotion to Colonel in the following year he superseded Ross Lang in command of the Southern army, and prosecuted vigorous and successful operations against Tipu and the Poligars of Dindigul and Madura. He took Palghatcherri in November, 1783, and was preparing to march against Seringapatam when he received orders to suspend hostilities pending negotiations with Tipu. His victorious campaign led to the Peace treaty of Mangalore of the 11th March, 1784.

having ceded the fort to Tippoo, attacked and sustained a very heavy loss by one of his tributary Poligars. This and other causes of a similar nature will delay the so much desired peace."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., *flscp.*]

[No. 373.]

HENRY PRESTON to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street, London.

1784, February 2nd, Camp at Trivetore.—"I was prevented by sickness from going to Bengal till the monsoons set in, when I could not possibly get a passage: which induced me to make application to join a Bengal detachment which was then under orders to march round to Bengal. I was fortunate enough to obtain permission from Colonel Pearce,<sup>(1)</sup> who had the command of the detachment, to join, and I now enjoy 340 rupees per month. It is to your goodness, Sir, I owe this preferment; and permit me to return you my most grateful acknowledgments for the many obligations I lie under to you."

Please forward the enclosed to my brother Fitzgerald in Dublin.

"HENRY PRESTON."

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 374.]

DAVID ASQUITH to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1784, February 4th, Ship *Surprise*, Falmouth.—The quilts which Mr. Louch sent you were the only things belonging to Mr. Palk which remained on board.

"DAVID ASQUITH."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 375.]

THO[MA]S MAUNSELL<sup>(2)</sup> to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1784, February 5th, Dublin.—"I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 22nd in the country, where I have been detained by illness and the severity of the season. I came to town a few days ago, and immediately came to the Custom House about your nephew's effects. In my absence I had a particular friend, Robert Alexander,<sup>(3)</sup> to attend to this business. We have done all in our power to get the effects lodged with me, and I am really much disappointed it cannot succeed. Mr. Winder<sup>(4)</sup> wrote to you upon the stores being lodged at the Custom House,

(1) Thomas Deane Pearce entered the Bengal Artillery as Major in 1768, and became Lieut.-Colonel in the following year. In 1781 he commanded a force which was sent from Bengal to aid Eyre Coote against Haider Ali. After a march of six months Colonel Pearce joined Coote shortly after the battle of Porto Novo. He commanded a brigade at the battles of Polilur and Sholinghur, and did good service until his return in 1784 to Bengal, where he died in 1787.

(2) *Vide* No. 370, p. 351, note 1.

(3) Elder brother of James Alexander. *Vide* No. 65, p. 92, note 6.

(4) Thomas Winder, Secretary to the Commissioners of Customs.

and unless you can prevail in England to have them delivered to me, I shall apply to have them shipped by the first vessel to London.

"I was anxious to see William Young, and could not find him out till last Tuesday. . . . I am sorry for the trouble this poor man met with in his journey from Limerick. He was taken up on a suspicion of being a highway man, and Mr. Luke Flood, a magistrate, wrote to me upon the occasion, whose letter I enclose you. He was immediately discharged, but lost his pistols by the villainy of the people. It was fortunate for him that I was in the country about 13 miles from the place where this affair happened.

"I shall be impatient to hear what you have done by your application to the Court of Directors and Colonel Barré,<sup>(1)</sup> and have only wrote to you now to let you know what has passed at this side. . . ."

"THOS. MAUNSELL."

[*Holograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

[*Enclosure*.]

Letter from LUKE FLOOD to THOMAS MAUNSELL, dated Corvill, Roundwood, 17th January, 1784.

"William Young, brought before me this day on suspicion of being a highway man, and who writes to you by the bearer, has mentioned a circumstance of having drawn a draft on you for fourty pound on account of Mr. Palk. I shall be thankful to you for your information if any such transaction happened, and your idea of the matter. Young says he was servant to the deceased Mr. Palk, who was brother to Sir Robert Palk, an English member of Parliament, and is now employed by him in the care of the deceased's property."

"LU. FLOOD."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 376.]

THO[MA]S MAUNSELL to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1784, February 14th, Dublin.—"I yesterday received your letter of the 6th to Alexander and me, and went this morning to the Commissioners, from whom I have obtained an order that the effects should be immediately shipped on board the *Draper*, Capt. Rendell, for London, consigned to you at the India House. I took William Young with me to the Custom House, and shall have him attended to on board ship, as it is certainly better he should go with the effects. . . .

"I am glad to acquaint you that we shall recover the pistols which were taken from William Young. . . ."

"THOS. MAUNSELL."

[*Holograph*, 1½ p., 4to.]

(1) Colonel Isaac Barré (1726—1802), a member of Parliament from 1761 and an active politician, was Paymaster General under Lord Shelburne's Government.



[No. 377.]

GEORGE BAKER to SIR ROBERT PALKE,<sup>(1)</sup> Bart.

1784, September 10th, Fort St. George.—“I condole with you, your brother<sup>(2)</sup> and family most sincerely on that very affecting circumstance the loss of your nephew Mr. Robert Palke, late of Bengall. . . . Your nephew Mr. T. Palke and family are at Trichinopoly. . . . Captain J. Kennaway is with his detachment, encamped near Bimblepatam, from whence I have understood they were to set out on their march to Bengall about the end of October. . . .

“Sautgur and Amboor were a few days since delivered up to us by Tippoo, and about the same time he was put in possession of Dingigul by us, so that things are said to be fully and amicably adjusted with him, at least for the present. Cuddalore and Trincomally still continue in the possession of the French,<sup>(3)</sup> owing, it is said, to the want of explicit instructions from Europe. I have understood that Mr. Hastings continues still up the co[u]ntry, and is not expected down till October. He has now, or has had, the King’s son with him. Money is, as it has long been, and as it is likely long to continue, very scarce:—the army and civil servants greatly distressed for want of their arrears. . . . About the 25th of last month the *Surprise* packet layed too for an hour off this road, landed a packet for this place from Europe, and proceeded directly on to Bengall.

“Sir Edward Hughes, being disappointed in his expectation of relief, will, it is said, sail early in the next month for the other coast, where he may perhaps in the beginning of next year meet it. The distressed state of publick affairs at home keep[s] this co[u]ntry in sad disorder. Some sistem for the good government of India is surely much wanted. God send that that which may be adopted may be perfect in proportion to the great length of time that has been bestowed on the investigation of the subject. . . .”

“GEORGE BAKER.”

“P.S.—I have understood that Mr. John Sullivan<sup>(4)</sup> has obtained leave to come down to the Presidency. It is said that he has made a large fortune at Tanjore by being concerned in providing grain, provision and stores for the troops to the southward in the late war, and that he means to return to Europe. In that case there will be a vacancy in the Residency at that place, which I suppose your nephew Mr. T. Palke would be glad to fill if it could be procured for him. G.B.”

[Holograph, 7½ pp., 4to. Duplicate.]

(1) An old spelling revived. Cf. *Devonshire Wills*, C. Worthy.

(2) Walter Palk, father of Robert Palk, jun.

(3) Delay was due to the contention by the French that the restitution of Trincomallee to the British was to be only formal, pending the immediate transfer of the port to the Dutch. The Madras Government had no knowledge of such an agreement, and referred the matter to England in July, 1784.

(4) John Sullivan had been Resident at Tanjore since 1780, when Stephen Sullivan resigned the post to which he had then just been appointed.

[No. 378.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. SIR ROBERT PALK, Baronet.

1784, September 11th, Madrass.—Since I last wrote, Messrs. Sadleir, Hudleston and Staunton<sup>(1)</sup> made peace with Tippoo at Mangalore, and returned in April to Madras.

“Lord Macartney<sup>(2)</sup> and the Nabob do not agree at all in any respect, but his Lordship is very honest and do[es] not receive any present nor allowance from any body ; but he has a long dispute with [the] Governor General and Council of Bengal about [the] Nabob’s affairs. . . .

“General Bussey is at Pondichery, and their forces is about one thousand Europeans both at Pondichery and Cuddalore, and the rest he sent away to Mauritius, and he is in very great distress to feed those troops now with him. And upon some disputes between them and our Government on account of Tricamally<sup>(3)</sup> the French do not deliver up Cuddalore to us nor take charge of Pondichery.”

No taxes are collected at Pondichery either by the British Resident or the French. Trade is bad and money scarce.

“CHOCAPAH.”

[Autograph, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 379.]

H.H. the Nawab WALAJAH to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1784, September 15th, Chepauck.—“You are my old friend and have been the faithful servant of the Company in an exalted station in this Government. During your government the affairs of the Company were conducted with honour, propriety and advantage ; and you was an eye witness to the friendship and support which I shewed towards the Company, and the sincerity, chearfulness and punctuality with which I paid my current charges with them. But now the misconduct of the Company’s servants is the sole cause of the ruin in which their affairs and those of the public and their friends are involved.

“Lord Macartney has brought utter ruin upon all the affairs of his employers, their friends and the public. In return for the good I have done his Lordship has done every injury to me, my family and country. Large sums of money from the revenues of my country have been dissipated and made away with, and not brought into the Company’s treasury to my credit. In short, my friend, a full detail of Lord Macartney’s evil conduct towards me and the public would fill volumes. I request therefore to refer you for particulars to Mr. James

(1) A Commission consisting of Anthony Sadleir, John Hudleston and George Staunton, the last of whom was the Governor’s private secretary, had been sent to Mangalore to arrange terms with Tipu. A treaty was concluded on the 11th March, 1784, whereby restitution of prisoners was agreed to. Those released by Tipu in March and April numbered 1,146 British and about 3,000 native soldiers.

(2) Lord Macartney assumed charge as Governor in June, 1781.

(3) Trincomalee, in Ceylon. Vide No. 377, p. 354.

Macpherson,<sup>(1)</sup> and I flatter myself no exertions on your part will be wanting to the reestablishment of my government and country.

“It was during my friend’s time that the last peace with France was concluded, and you know that Mons<sup>r</sup> Law, who came out as Commissary on the part of the French King, though the villages around Pondichery had been dependant on it from ancient time, yet he did not think it right or proper to hoist the French flag in Pondichery, or to receive the said villages without my concurrence and authority, nor untill he had sent a Vackeel to me and had an interview himself at Sadrass. In that business you was pleased to show me every token of honour and respect, and you gave me every friendly information and support : we were both one and the same. But now, though the King of Great Britain has engaged in his late treaty with France to procure for that nation the cession of two additional districts<sup>(2)</sup> of my country, to which the French can claim no right, and as the acquisition will greatly increase their power in this country, they consequently should be bound by stronger restrictions than heretofore with a view to the good of the Carnatic and of the English possessions in this part ; yet Lord Macartney, in his implacable enmity towards me and my family, has endeavoured to deprive me totally of my inherent rights ; and though I cheerfully consented to the cession of the districts to the French agreeable to the engagements of his Majesty the King of Great Britain, yet his Lordship denied me the privilege of giving away my own countries, and determined to surrender them to the French without my interference and without making them enter into any Crarnamah.<sup>(3)</sup> His Lordship accordingly signified to Mons<sup>r</sup> Bussy, through his own private secretary Mr. Staunton, that he possessed the sovereignty of the Carnatic, and that all negotiations must be entered into with him. But Bussy, though an enemy, denied his Lordship’s position, as you will understand from the letter to Lord Macartney on this subject. I write this for your information.

“My friend will be pleased to recollect that it was himself who delivered to me the letter which was addressed me by the late Earl of Chat[h]am, the father of the present Minister, Mr. Pitt. You have now a happy opportunity of exerting your interest with the Minister and your other friends for the re-establishment of my affairs, and I trust that your exertions will not be wanting.

“May you long enjoy every earthly blessing. What can I say more ? ”

[3 pp., demy. Duplicate.]

(1) James Macpherson took over charge of Walajah’s interests in England from his cousin John when the latter sailed for India to become a member of the Supreme Council.

(2) The villages of Villenour and Bahour, which now form part of Pondicherry territory.

(3) *Crarnamah*, Pers., *karâr-nāma*, a written agreement.



[No. 380.]

A[BRAHAM] WELLAND<sup>(1)</sup> to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1784, September 18th, Calcutta. Received 16th October, 1785.—I am pleased to hear that my cousin Abraham<sup>(2)</sup> is coming to India. I shall of course render him all assistance in my power. “The expences I incurred at Madrass are undoubtedly very great, but believe me, had I not received Mr. Thomas Palk’s approbation for every article I bought, I would not have spent half the money I did.

“How very much the times are altered since you was in India, when a person was satisfied with one or two servants! I can assure you a Writer in Bengal can not now exist under an establishment of less than thirty. The goodness of Mr. Hastings to the black people has lain us under this imposition.” However, I live as economically as possible.

“Your very dutiful and affectionate nephew, A. WELLAND.”

[*Holograph, 6 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 381.]

MRS. C[ATHARINE] PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1784, October 8th, Trichinapoly. Received 23rd October, 1785.<sup>(3)</sup>—“I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 15th of February, and the satisfaction it affords me is more than I can express, particularly for your too kind assurance of taking care of my children in England. . . .

“My Tom is, I hope, by the blessing of the Almighty safe arrived, of which I am very anxious to hear. We could not possibly hear of him since he left the Cape, when he was well. Catharine is my next, who is four years old. I shall embrace the first good opportunity for sending her to England. My last is Bob, and as every parent is proud of its own, I cannot help saying he is a very fine child, and I flatter myself with hopes that by the time he comes of age to be sent also, that we shall be able to accompany him ourselves.

“The loss of our valuable brother was somewhat unexpected, as we flattered ourselves that the voyage would restore him to health. We feel the loss most sensibly.

“An end being put to a dreadful war enabled me to return here with Mr. Palk in April last. I hope we shall be allowed to remain here for the future undisturbed. . . .

“Your most obliged and most affectionate niece, C. PALK.”

[*Holograph, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to.*]

(1) Abraham Welland, brother of Lieut. Richard Welland, R.N., and son of Sir Robert Palk’s sister Grace Welland.

(2) Thomas Abraham, son of Robert Abraham of Gurrington, near Ashburton, was born in 1769 and died in 1818. He was a cousin of Sir Robert Palk, whose mother was Frances Abraham.

(3) The *Pigot*, which was to have left for England on the 15th Oct. 1784, was employed locally, and did not sail on the homeward voyage until Feb., 1785.

[No. 382.]

THO[MA]S PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK.

1784, October 10th, Trichinapoly. Received 23rd October, 1785.—Your acceptance of the care of my boy Tom without my having first obtained your approbation impresses me with the deepest sense of gratitude. “Had it pleased the Almighty to have spared my poor brother, he would no doubt have taken those charges upon himself. This unhappy event was first intimated to me by a town report, nor did I see any letter confirming it for many days, so that I was in a painful melancholy suspense during that period. He appears to have possessed a very handsome fortune.

“Though the peace took place in March last, it is only within the last month that a final exchange of places took place, owing to, I believe, some delay occasioned by the Supreme Council, who, it seems, do not altogether approve of the Treaty, as the Nabob has been totally excluded therefrom. To such a length hath *private* animosity gone forth! The Supreme Council have taken up the matter very warmly, and have threatened our Select Committee with suspension should they not open an immediate negotiation with Tippoo, and insist upon the Nabob’s being inserted in the Treaty. The Committee have peremptorily refused doing it, and it is expected that a change in this Government will very soon take place. It appears to me to be at present a very unhappy one, that gives general disapprobation and disgust. It is a very happy circumstance for the Coast that a man of Mr. Hastings’s experience and abilities guides the helm. He proves himself a man of inexhaustable resource. The Directors and Company between them have irritated him a great deal . . . , but he has too much honor to leave them in the hour of danger, and hath proven that no ill treatment whatever can swerve him from the publick good. He set out on a tour through the provinces in February last, and returned to Calcutta only in August. You will no doubt, Sir, hear from better authority than mine the good which hath been derived from this excursion to the publick.

“Mrs. Palk wishes to have sent her a picture of her son Tom. Should you think of it, Sir, you will oblige us by getting one taken . . . .”

“THO. PALK.”

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 383.]

GEORGE BAKER to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1784, October 10th, Fort St. George.—“I know of no publick news worth your notice except the mutinous disposition of the Army, which has shewn itself a second time very lately. The 36th Regiment took to their arms, and were with difficulty

prevailed on to lay them down after one of the most active had been blown from a gun. Their complaint was the want of their arrears, aggravated perhaps by the knowledge of all Batta but in a few particular places being to be taken off about the end of the year. This, it seems, has been resolved on in Committee, and may perhaps have been published in General Orders. It may be difficult wholly to suppress the spirit of dissatisfaction for a long time, and perhaps equally so to pay up their arrears in a short one. The different Powers of Hindostan are . . . at peace, but the rumour of an approaching rupture between the Nizam and Maratahs as allies and Tippoo is very prevalent. Some think that in such a case we shall keep aloof. . . .

"Sir Edward Hughes sailed early this morning with his squadron for the other coast. A dispute having arisen in our Select Committee between the Gove[r]nor and Mr. Sadleir (our friend) about the time of the *Juno's* departure, the former gave the latter at the Council Board the lye direct. This terminated in a duel between them after the *Juno* sailed.<sup>(1)</sup> The Governor was wounded, but not dangerously, in the left side. The parties are said to be reconciled—in appearance only I should suppose.

"I had got thus far in my letter, and was about to tell you that the *Cornwallis* arrived here on the 7th instant, when Mr. Abraham<sup>(2)</sup> came into my room with your most kind and acceptable favor of the ninth of March last. I offered him and indeed pressed him to accept of a room with me during his short stay here, but he being as he said well accommodated with Captain Abercrombie in the Fort, and being to depart in a very few days for Bengall, declined the acceptance of it. . . . It appears that the *Cornwallis* has been remarkably healthy, having not buried a man since she left England. My residence is at St. Thomé : Mr. Abraham might perhaps think the situation inconvenient.

"We are indeed in quiet possession of the Carnatick, but it is desolated to the extent of any representation that I have seen of it; depopulated, uncultivated and deprived of its manufactures of course. And, what I conceive to be no inconsiderable thing, its stock of cattle of every species exhausted by the destruction or pillage of the late enemy, or the consumption of the Army, Settlement and Squadron for draught, carriage and food. A country in such a state surely requires time to recover itself before it can either furnish the sinews of war, the means of commerce or a source for revenue. Pardon, I pray you, the obtrusion of these reveries. . . ."

"GEORGE BAKER."

[*Holograph, 6 pp., flscp.*]

(1) The duel was settled with pistols at ten paces on the 24th September. Alexander Davidson acted as Macartney's second, Major John Grattan of H.M.'s 100th Regiment, as Sadleir's.

(2) Thomas Abraham. Vide No. 380, p. 357, note 2.



[No. 384.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1784, October 12th, Trich[inopol]y. Received 22nd April, 1786.—"I did myself the pleasure to address you by the *Pigot*; and this is chiefly to introduce to you Major Geils,<sup>(1)</sup> who is lately arrived from England, but owing to the neglect of the Court of Directors is obliged to return thither for ascertaining what corps he is to serve in, which after 19 years' zealous and faithful service is a hard case. He is a very brave and excellent officer in various departments of the service. Upon those grounds may I presume, Sir, to hope that you will promote his views so far as to hasten his return to this country? . . ."

"THO. PALK."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 385.]

THO[MAS] PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bt., Bruton Street, London.

1784, November 20th, Trich[inopol]y.—Advises despatch of a piece of muslin for Miss Palk by the hand of Captain Gardner, 102nd Regiment.

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to. Wax seal inscribed "*Thomas Palk*" in Persian characters].

[No. 386.]

HENRY VANSITTART, jun., to SIR ROBERT PALK.

1784, December 4th, Calcutta.—"I am exceedingly obliged to you for your congratulations to me on my marriage,<sup>(2)</sup> and for the kind notice which you, Lady Palk and my cousins have taken of your new relation[s]. It is a circumstance esteemed extremely fortunate by them, and brings to mind the friendly attentions which Mrs. Powney experienced from you at Madras. They hope to enjoy the continuance of your regard, and do not doubt of making you every return of gratitude which it is in the power of sincerity to inspire. . . .

"Kennaway, in a joint letter with me, has informed you fully of the state of your nephew's affairs. We hope that, immediately after your knowledge of the contents of his will, you will send us explicit instructions regarding the legacies and the disposal of the property remaining in this country. It is now almost confined to the house in Calcutta and the Company's

(1) Thomas Geils entered the Madras Artillery in 1767. He was transferred in the following year to the Engineers, and, as Captain, was employed in 1779 on the demolition of the fortifications of Pondicherry. On his return in 1781 from home leave the Directors failed to specify the corps with which Major Geils was to serve, but, after consultation with Generals Caillaud and Sir Robert Barker, they posted him in 1787 to the Artillery as Lieut.-Colonel. He became Major-General in 1796, and was Commandant of Artillery during the mutiny at St. Thomas's Mount in 1798. For his action on that occasion he was censured. He married Mary Pascal in 1773 and died in Scotland in 1815.

(2) Henry Vansittart, jun., married Miss Catherine Ann Powney at Calcutta in February, 1783.

bonds. The house, I think, should not be sold for much less than 50,000 S.Rs. . . .

“Mr. Hastings has rejoined us in Calcutta, but before his return had the misfortune to lose his only friend in Council, Mr. Wheler. The other members have not yet commenced an active opposition, but the Settlement is now trembling and confounded with the expectation of a change of Government. Mr. Hastings has declared himself on the point of departure, and desired that the *Burrington*, Indiaman, may be detained for him.

“Our situation at present is very disagreeable. There is talk of a reform and retrenchment of expences. The latter is to be effected by a reduction of the avowed allowances of the Company’s servants, of which a complete statement has been made out. The amount of my commission is very considerable, and in case such a plan should be carried into execution, more liable to reduction than any other. The secret and illicit emoluments will be untouched, so that persons whose advantages are of this description will have a great superiority over those to whom the Council have thought proper to allot a fair and legal recompence for their services. I speak only of reports, and am by no means certain that such an event will happen. On the contrary, I think the measure will not be pursued in the tottering state of the present Council on the eve of a change. . . .”

In July last Mrs. Vansittart presented me with a son, who has been named Henry. Mr. Abraham is living with me, but he will shortly move into Writers’ Buildings. Kennaway, Stables<sup>(1)</sup> and I agree in advising him to enter the Commercial branch, where he may have an initial salary of Rs. 400 to Rs. 500, rather than the Political or Revenue.

“HENRY VANSITTART.”

[Autograph, 4 pp., 4to. Duplicate.]

[No. 387.]

HENRY VANSITTART & R[ICHARD] KENNAWAY to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1784, December 28th, Calcutta.—“You were informed in our letter by the *Surprise* of the application from Captain Asquith for payment for the passage to England of Mr. Burt the surgeon, and of the refusal we gave to it. Lest this matter should be litigated in England we think it necessary to inform you of the following circumstances, the knowledge of which may be serviceable in resisting the claim. Colonel Watson demanded passage money upon this plea, that no surgeon was necessary for the care of the ship’s company, whereas it

<sup>(1)</sup> John Stables, a Bengal civil servant succeeded Philip Francis as a member of the Supreme Council.

happened on the passage that many of the seamen had absolute occasion for his assistance, which Mr. Burt gave them at the formal requisition of Captain Asquith. After this he became to all intents and purposes surgeon of the ship, and has recovered allowances in that capacity from Colonel Watson by the decision of referees or arbitrators. The claim to passage money of course, if any previously existed, was done away with by this act, which rendered him an officer of the ship. . . .

"We observe that in the will Mr. Palk bequeathes £2,000/ to his brother Mr. Thomas Palk on the Coast, from whom is due by his books Current Rupees 20,359 12*as.*, in part of which his bond for Current Rupees 19,290 10 is in our possession. This bond we recommend to be delivered up to him, the debt being about cancelled by the legacy. . . ."

"HENRY VANSITTART,  
R. KENNAWAY."

[*Autographs*, 5½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 388.]

GEORGE BAKER TO SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1785, January 25th, Fort St. George.—My last letter, dated 10th October, was sent by the *Pigot*, which was due to sail for England on the 15th idem. For want of cargo, however, and to save demurrage, she was diverted to the eastward, but she has now returned here, and will leave for Europe early in February.

"Colonel Pearse's detachment is, I suppose, arrived in Bengall by about this time. The last letter that I had from Captain J. Kennaway was on his leaving Ganjam, in which he told me he hoped to be in Calcutta about the end of the year . . .

"Mr. Hastings came down to Calcutta about the beginning of November, and it was then said that he intended to go home by the ships of this season; but as a copy of Mr. Pitt's amended Bill has been received here with a few letters from England dated the 6th of August last, and as the purport of the whole has been . . . received in Bengall, it is now confidently reported here that the Governor General has declared it to be his intention to continue in India some time longer.

"It is said that Lord Macartney keeps the *Greyhound* packet, which [is] now in this road, till the new Bill shall have passed and be received here, together with the Court's of Controul and Directors' Orders in consequence thereof, that he may be sure of a passage home immediately if he shall then be either desirous or in want of it.

"The bulk of the troops are in cantonment at Arcot. The King's officers there have complained loudly of the impropriety of the commanding officer's (Brigadier General Horn[e]) privilege



of selling arrack to the troops; in consequence of which our Government have by public advertizement signified their desire to receive proposals for furnishing the troops . . . with that article by contract. Horn[c] is called down, but is appointed to command all the troops to the southward of the Coleroon, and General Campbell<sup>(1)</sup> is sent up to Arcot to command there in his stead.

“The Batta, which was to have been taken off on the 31st of the last month, the Board have now declared to be their intention to continue till further notice. Indeed they could not do otherwise, the clamours of the Army haveing been so loud on that score that I believe nothing less than a general mutiny would have been the consequence of their persisting in their former resolution. . . .

“It is proposed to send a Committee, comprising the Commander-in-Chief and Chief Engineer, to examine the forts throughout the Carnatic with the object of determining which shall be preserved and which demolished. A Committee of Accounts has lately been appointed to examine all financial claims on the Company. Mr. William Jackson,<sup>(2)</sup> one of the members, who has been deputed to the country south of the Coleroon, finds huge war claims put forward there.

“A small American ship (the first belonging to the United States) from Phyladelphia arrived at Pondicherry on the 26th of last month. The captain and supracargoe have been here, and are just gone back to that place, and talk of returning to America soon.

“The 52nd Regiment now at Poonamaly are at this moment in mutiny. I have not yet heard their pretext or complaint, though I understand that it is rather specious than well grounded; for however much the Company's troops are in arrear, it appears that the King's are so regularly paid as to leave little reason of complaint on that score.

“Mr. Bussy dyed in the begin[n]g of this month at Pondicherry. Orders have been received by our Government from the Governor General and Council to receive from and restore to the French and Dutch the several places agreeable to the terms of the respective treaties. Mr. Floyer is gone to the southward as Commissary for that purpose.

“Mr. Daniel,<sup>(3)</sup> who has for the last three or four years been Chief of Masulipatam, came up here with his family this month on the *Pigot*, and means to send them home on that ship . . . . Dureing his Chiefship in that Circar he has used extraordinary exertions with great moderation and good effect in collecting . . . a very great part of the arrears of the revenue, amounting, I think, in the whole to some thirty lack of pagodes, and thereby rendered himself a good and faithfull servant to

<sup>(1)</sup> Major-General Allan Campbell a King's officer.

<sup>(2)</sup> *Vide* No. 105, p. 135, note 3.

<sup>(3)</sup> James Daniell. *Vide* No. 193, p. 208, note 4.

the Company, and a friend to this Settlement, with the character of an able, worthy, honest man. . . .”

“GEORGE BAKER.”

“P.S.—The 52nd Regiment at Poonamaly submitted. . . .”

[*Holograph*, 12 pp., 4to.]

[No. 389.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. SIR ROBERT PALK, Baronet.

1785, February 2nd, Madrass.—Nothing extraordinary has happened since I last wrote except that “Lord Macartney and Mr. Sadleir challanced with pistoles on the 23rd of September last near Egmore Fort,<sup>(1)</sup> when his Lordship was wounded on his right side, and soon after he is recovered. . . .”

Orders have been sent to this Presidency from Bengal forbidding the drawing of bills. As this part of the country has been ruined by the enemy, there is difficulty in finding money to pay the troops, who are giving trouble.

“General Bussey is dead at Pondichery the 5th of last month, and since [then] we have taken charge of Cuddalore, and the French have taken charge of Pondichery.”

“CHOCAPAH.”

[*Autograph*, 1½ p., 4to.]

[No. 390.]

W[ILLIAM] WYNCH<sup>(2)</sup> to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1785, February 3rd, Madras.—I enclose a letter from Mr. Pybus relating to Goodlad’s estate.

Lord Macartney’s new system is disliked by the Company’s servants, and the economy he talks of has injured credit. “It’s now with the greatest difficulty even a trifling loan can be obtained from a black man. Those of the Company’s servants who have applied for their arrears of pay have been paid in Bengal bills, which bills were discounted at 50 per cent., while Lord Macartney himself regularly every 3 months pocketed his own pay of 10,000 pagodas, and his Council receiving theirs at a discount in Bengal bills. . . . Nothing but the most disagreeable circumstances have attended us lately, duels, dissensions in Council and mutiny among the King’s troops.”

After being eighteen months without employment I have been appointed a Commissioner of the Board of Accounts, thanks to the exertions of my friend Mr. Barclay,<sup>(3)</sup> one of the Council. I beg that you will interest yourself on his behalf. He is desirous of succeeding Mr. Sullivan<sup>(4)</sup> as Resident of Tanjore when the latter leaves for Europe.

[*Holograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

“W. WYNCH.”

<sup>(1)</sup> A redoubt about two miles west of Fort St. George.

<sup>(2)</sup> William Wynch, son of Governor Wynch, was a civil servant of 1766.

<sup>(3)</sup> Robert Barclay, a civil servant of 1763, was junior member of Macartney’s Council.

<sup>(4)</sup> John Sullivan. *Vide* No. 377, p. 354, note 4.

[No. 391.]

[MAJOR] JOHN SHORTT<sup>(1)</sup> to [SIR] ROBERT PALK.

1785, February 5th, Madras. —I wrote to you last year “on the interesting subject of a stop being put to my rank in the government of Lord Macartney and Lieut.-General Lang<sup>(2)</sup> as Commander in Chief. The reason I never could arrive at, and the only answer I received through the Secretary was that it was the Committee did it from mature consideration.” In order to obtain redress I wrote to you and General Caillaud and other friends. I now again beg you to use your interest on my behalf. “I cannot charge myself with any thing more than being too hospitable heretofore, which, as it has proved prejudicial to my interest, I will in future study to correct.”

[Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to.]

“JOHN SHORTT.”

[No. 392.]

COLURE SEETARAM PUNDETH to SIR ROBERT PALK.

1785, February 7th, Madras. — “With all humility I humbly presume to address to your honour that after the Northern Circars became Jaqueer to the Honourable Company, and since the end of Mr. Bouchier’s government to the last of Mr. Rumbold’s government, the Jamidars<sup>(3)</sup> of Chicacole Circars are suffered great cruelties and oppressions through the means of Seetaram Rauz,<sup>(4)</sup> by which the Honourable Company suffered a great loss in their revenue.”

As an old servant of the Company I presented many petitions on this subject, but without obtaining redress. Copies of these I now send, together with an address for submission to the Directors and a letter to be kindly forwarded to the Hon. Edward Monckton.

[2 pp., 4to.]

[Enclosures.]

No. 1.—N.D.—Copy of petition from COLLURE SEETARAM PUNDETH, Mazoomdar,<sup>(5)</sup> of Vizagapatam, to the Honble. THOMAS RUMBOLD, Esq., President, and Governor of Fort St. George. [To the same effect as No. 3 below].

[3¼ pp., fscp.]

(1) John Shortt (or Short) entered the Madras army as Ensign in 1760, and attained the rank of Major in 1778. He was ultimately invalided in India, and died in 1803.

(2) Ross Lang, a Lieutenant in the Madras European Regiment in 1758, accompanied Caillaud’s force to Bengal in the following year. As Captain he commanded a battalion of native infantry at the siege of Madura in 1763, and as Lieut.-Colonel served in the first Mysore war, taking command of the expedition on the recall of Colonel John Wood in 1768. In 1777 Colonel Lang acted as Commander-in-Chief during the suspension of Colonel James Stuart, and in 1780 he defended Vellore against Haidar Ali. On the deportation of General Stuart in 1783 Lang was promoted Lieut.-General and became Commander-in-Chief, holding the appointment until his retirement in 1785. He married Ann, widow of Captain Thomas Oats and daughter of Thomas Pelling.

(3) Zemindars.

(4) Sitarām Rāz. Vide No. 19, p. 28, note 5.

(5) *Majumdar*, a revenue accountant who keeps a record of the Government collections,



No. 2.—N.D.—Copy of letter or petition from Row SEETARAM RUNGAROW, Sirdar in the Sircar of Chicacole, to the Honble. THOMAS RUMBOLD, Esq., President, and Governor of Fort St. George.

I beg to represent that “my country [is] called Bebbooly in the Sircar of Chicacole under the districts of Vizagapatam. That Poosapauty Seetaram Rauze and Vijiam Rauze having imprisoned my brother Vencata Runga Row in the Fort of Vijanagram and unjustly possessed my country; the said my brother is five and twenty years of age; he is not married yet. Since 3 years he is in their confine, and not put on the turband since he has been confined. . . .” The Chief and Council of Vizagapatam took no notice of the matter. Governor Wynch at Madras prevented Mr. Stratton, the Chief, from releasing the prisoner. Lord Pigot, on his arrival, referred the case to the Committee of Circuit. I give some account of my family and that of Poosapauty, and of the disputes and warfare between them, especially when the French held the Circars.

I now pray that my country may be restored to me, and my brother released.

[3 pp., *flscp.*]

No. 3.—N.D.—Copy of petition from SEETARAM PUNDETH, Majoomdar, of Vizagapatam, to the Rt. Hon. LORD MACARTNEY, K.B., President and Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

Your petitioner represents that he is a Majoomdar in the Company’s service at Vizagapatam. After the transfer of the Circars Poospatty Seetaram Rajah recommended a sepoy to the Chiefs as their Dubash, with resulting loss to the Company. Several Zemindars were dispossessed of their districts, and the Chiefs, who had accepted presents, concurred in the spoliation. The Zemindars were detained prisoners at Vizagapatam, some of them being put in irons. Your petitioner appealed on their behalf to the Governor of Madras, first to Mr. Wynch and afterwards to Lord Pigot. “It however unfortunately happened that his Lordship was dispossessed of his Government.” Your petitioner then appealed to Governor Rumbold, but the Rajahs concerned came to Madras “and presented sums to a considerable amount to the said Governor, as also to the Councillors, Secretarys and Dubashes, which entirely shut their eyes against justice.”

Your petitioner prays that you will not suffer the Circuit Committee to be influenced by the gifts of the Rajahs, but direct the Committee so to act that the

losses of revenue may be repaired and the dispossessed Zemindars may recover their territories.

[2½ pp., *flscp.*]

No. 4.—Copy of petition of COLLORE SEETARAM PUNDETH, Mazoomdar of Vizagapatam, to the Honble. WARREN HASTINGS, Esq., President, and Governor General of Fort William. Dated 8th January, 1785.

Represents that his ancestors and himself served the Company in Vizagapatam for upwards of a century. “After the Circars were subjoined to the Vizagapatam territories the Poospatty Seetaram Rauz, in order the better to succeed in his own private views, etc., recommended a common seapoy called Jaggoo to the then Chiefs to act as their Dubash, and by whose means the said Seetaram Rauz procured the interest of the gentlemen, and by which he has encroached on several of neighbouring Jamidars’ countrys, who were known to be well affected to the Honourable Company. And nevertheless the said Poospatty Seetaram Rauz killed the Cawsepatty Rauz and his sons, and also he has closely imprisoned the Rungarow’s son, etc. Jamidars, who are yet in confinement, but some of them are dispersed into different countries.”

Petitioner applied to the late Lord Pigot, who promised to restore the lands to the Zemindars; but he is now no more. Mr. Claud Russell carried the papers to Europe to submit them to the Court of Directors, but he effected nothing. He returned to India as Chief at Vizagapatam, and is friendly with Seetaram Rauz. Petitioner has presented some papers to the Circuit Committee, but none to Lord Macartney, as the Governor has a great regard for Seetaram Rauz.

Petitioner prays for redress for the injured Zemindars.

[3½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 393.]

LIEUT.-GENERAL ROSS LANG to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1785, February 9th, Fort St. George. Received 23rd October, 1785.—“I have the pleasure to acknowledge your favor of the 8th March last by Mr. Abraham, and should have been happy to have shewn that gentleman any civility in my power in consequence of your recommendation of him; but the shortness of the stay he made here prevented my shewing him that attention which I could have wished.

“I have the pleasure to inform you that the situation in which Captain Collins<sup>(1)</sup> now is is a very favorable one: he commands

(1) Edward Collins entered the Madras Army as Ensign in 1765, becoming Captain in 1772, Lieut.-Colonel in 1786 and Major-General in 1795. He died at Madras in 1808.

a battalion of Native Infantry. You may be assured that I shall be happy in an opportunity of serving him when in my power, both on account of his own merits, and as you are interested in his welfare.

"I am fully sensible of the obligation under which I lay to you for confirming the Court of Directors in the good opinion they had of my services, and the part you have taken in my favor, and shall hope for a continuance of your support with them. . . ."

"ROSS LANG."

[*Autograph*. 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 394.]

R[AWSON] H[ART] BODDAM<sup>(1)</sup> to SIR ROBERT PALK, London.

1785, March 12th, Bombay. — "In conformity to your desire I applied to Mr. James Hatley, who has had the management of Mr. Lane's<sup>(2)</sup> affairs since his demise, for the payment of the deceased[s] bonds to you. . . . The amount of the assests [*sic*] being placed in the Honble. Company's Treasury, no payment can be received therefrom, on account of the situation of their affairs and the very heavy debts due by this Presidency; and when they will be able to settle them, without assistance in some effectual mode from Europe, God only knows: therefore [I] did not chuse to take on me, without your particuar directions, to receive as payment for your demand on Mr. Lane's estate any transfer on his credit on the Bombay Treasury. . . . I can at any time . . . get such a transfer made; but when you may get paid therefrom I will not pretend even to give a guess at, as their Bombay Government is so very deeply involved that any the least prospect seems very distant indeed, and I can see not even a chance for [it] without some very effectual step is taken by Government, such as funding the debt altogether, [that] can ever give any prospect of relief.

"The great changes in the Governments of Madrass and Bombay by the reduction of their Councils to a Governor, two civilians and the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces has greatly affected the senior servants, and I believe nothing but their being so very deeply involved in their Treasury debt keeps many now in India. We, thank God, are in entire tranquility with all our neighbours; but the idea of losing Mr. Hastings from Bengall, as private advices lately received assure us he was to proceed to Europe on the *Berrington* in the first week in February last, has thrown a general damp on all our prospects; . . . and the late rapid progress and success that has attended Mahadjee Sindia in now being possessed of the whole power at the Court of Dilly . . . forebodes no very favourable prospects from so able and enterprizing a genius. Time,

(1) Rawson Hart Boddam, Governor of Bombay 1784 to 1788.

(2) Edmund Veale Lane. *Vide* No. 150, p. 169, note 2.



however, will disclose matters, and I shall hope that the jealousy of the Poonah durbar at one of their Jaggeredars being grown so powerfull will furnish means to attruct [?obstruct] Sindia's views, so as to leave the Company in full security both for themselves and allies on that side of India. . . ."

" R. H. BODDAM."

[Autograph, 2¼ pp., 4to.]

[No. 395.]

A[BRAHAM] WELLAND to SIR ROB[ER]T PALK, Bart.

1785, March 21st, Calcutta.—I am still serving as Assistant in the Import Warehouse. I was lately recommended as Deputy, but that post has been otherwise filled. I hope to repay shortly the sum which Mr. Kennaway advanced from the estate of the late Mr. Palk on account of my brother Richard.

"Your dutiful nephew, A. WELLAND."

[Holograph, 7 pp., 4to.]

[No. 396.]

[CAPTAIN] F[RANCIS] SWAIN WARD<sup>(1)</sup> to CAPTAIN JOHN KENNAWAY.

1785, April 24th.—Printed form of receipt, filled up in MS., for Rs. 100 as subscription for one set of *Perspective Views of Hindoo Temples, Buildings, etc.*, to be published and delivered within eighteen months in England and two years in India. Appended is an instruction to deliver to Captain Kennaway or his order, signed by

[Autograph, 1 p., 4to.]

" F. SWAIN WARD."

[Endorsement.] "John Kennaway desires the views may be delivered to Sir Robert Palk, Bart., Bruton Street, London."

[No. 397.]

OZIAS HUMPHRY<sup>(2)</sup> to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., M.P.,  
Bruton Street.

1785, May 15th, Cape of Good Hope.—I have just heard of the death of Mr. Wheler,<sup>(3)</sup> the resignation of Mr. Hastings and the return of Sir John D'Oyley,<sup>(4)</sup> to each of whom I carry recommendations. "You had the goodness to promise me your kind favor with Mr. Vansittart<sup>(5)</sup> if he should be appointed Governor.

(1) Francis Swain Ward, though trained as an artist, entered the Madras military service. He resigned his commission in 1764 and became Secretary to the Society of Artists. In 1774 he was reappointed to the Madras Army with the rank of Captain, when he presented to the Company a set of his landscapes painted in Southern India. He retired as Lieut.-Colonel in 1786, and died at Negapatam in 1794. A number of his views were engraved by Edward Orme.

(2) Ozias Humphry, portrait painter and associate of Romney and Blake, painted portraits in India from 1785 to 1788. He was elected R.A. in 1791, and died in 1810.

(3) Edward Wheler, a member of the Supreme Council.

(4) Sir John D'Oyley, Bt., a Bengal civil servant of 1770, returned to England in 1784. He went out again in 1804, and died at Calcutta in 1818.

(5) George Vansittart,

I take the liberty to write to you from hence to entreat it, as I shall now be in the East Indies unprotected in a wide sea. I am sensible how slight a claim I have to your favor, but any service you have the kindness to do me with Mr. Vansittart, or the present Governor, or whoever is appointed to succeed him will be received with thankfulness, and remembered with the warmest gratitude. . . .”

“OZIAS HUMPHRY.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to. *Wax seal with crest and initials O.H.*]

[No. 398.]

ENSIGN W[ILLIA]M PRESTON<sup>(1)</sup> to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1785, May 16th, Madras.—As a supernumerary officer of Captain Edmonds<sup>(2)</sup> battalion I am not eligible for the allowance in lieu of half batta; but General Lang has been good enough to transfer me to a regiment at Trichinopoly where I can draw it. “We are informed [that] General Sloper is to command in India, and General Dalling<sup>(3)</sup> on the Coast. . . . I shall be very thankfull if you will please to recommend me to these gentlemen or to Mr. Holland,<sup>(4)</sup> who [it] is expected will govern.

“I find this service to be very good, particularly for a single man, but the pay of an ensign is not sufficient to support a family. Several subalterns who have their familys with them were immediately provided for. A fort adjutant’s appointment is very good, I am informed. They are frequently appointed by the Court of Directors, or strongly recommended by them to the Governor or Commander-in-Chief for the succession of a place. I trust, Sir, your goodness will assist me with your interest, so that I may have it in my power to get my family out. . . .”

“WM. PRESTON.”

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 399.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1785, May 20th, Trichinapoly.—“Though it is now a year since the restoration of peace, I do not find that in population or cultivation any material increase has occurred: so effectually has the sword and famine swept away its inhabitants and destroyed agriculture. I did think that the Poligar countries would have been conducive to the saving of thousands of lives, and that at the conclusion of peace they would be flocking back

(1) William Preston joined the Madras Army as Ensign in 1783. He attained the rank of Captain in 1798, and died in 1802.

(2) Edward Edmondes entered the service as a cadet in 1764.

(3) Lt.-General Robert Sloper and Lt.-General Sir John Dalling, Bt., arrived in 1785 as C.-in-C. in India and C.-in-C., Madras, respectively.

(4) John Holland, who was expected to succeed Lord Macartney. *Vide* No. 91, p. 122, note 1.

to their former residencies ; but in this hope I have been cruelly disappointed. From the Coleroon to Arcott the country is almost laid waste from the want of inhabitants to cultivate, and other countries which have not been so destitute have failed in their crops from a scarcity of rain ; and from those causes are we still labouring under a heavy debt and large arrears, which the continuance of the Assignment and peace can only relieve us from. God grant them both is my constant prayer, but sorry I am to say that I fear neither will be of long duration. . . .

“ I am anxious to have some account of Tom, which I am now in daily expectation of. . . . ”

“ THO. PALK.”

[*Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to.*]

[No. 400.]

MESSRS. PELLING & DE FRIES to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1785, June 12th, Fort St. George. Received 30th March, 1786.—We thank you for your information regarding the disposal in England of the business of the Nawab's creditors. “ Mr. Call's<sup>(1)</sup> diligence and assiduity on this occasion deserves the particular acknowledgement of the creditors, who are now put on a public and solid footing. The Nabob will no doubt for some time find much difficulty to fulfil his engagement of paying annually sixteen lacks of pagodas, 12 on account of his debt to the Company and creditors and 4 for the expences of the army, from the ruined state of some part of the country, which has been almost entirely unpeopled ; but it is possible with good management and strict oeconomy, should we continue in peace and tolerable plentiful seasons.

“ Lord Macartney left us the 4th instant on the *Greyhound* packet for Bengal. He is to call at Vizagapatam, from whence it is said he means to send his resignation. Our Administration at present consist of Mr. Davidson, General Sir John Dalling, Mr. Danniell and General Sloper, who as Commander-in-Chief of India has a seat and vote in Council.

“ The Company's letter to the Nabob has been delivered, and security demanded for the payments he is to make. We are told the Nabob is to give Souckar securities, such as they are, on which the countries will be delivered up to him. Much will depend on the person presiding over the Company's affairs keeping always a strict hand in exacting a due compliance with the different parts of the agreement. Lord Macartney would have been an excellent person for this purpose, but he was absolutely against having any thing to do with the Amier,<sup>(2)</sup> who has still the management of his father's affairs, which made him quit his station sooner than otherwise he would have done ;

(1) Colonel John Call, formerly Chief Engineer and a member of the Madras Council. *Vide* No. 19, p. 22 note 1.

(2) Amīr-ul-Umarā, Walajah's second son,



and he has declared that he would not accept of the Government of Bengal should he be appointed to it. . . .

"We are in peace with all the Powers of India, and likely to continue so, in which will depend our salvation, for the arrears and bond debt of the Company in India at present amounts to upwards of seven millions sterling, to clear which will require at least fifteen years of a continuance of peace. The discount of bonds here is 40 per cent., at Bengal 25 and Bombay 70. At this last Settlement no interest has been paid for four years.

"The French seem to turn their views in India entirely to commerce. They have a small garrison at Pondicherry and has done nothing to the fortification of that place. Trincomalé has been delivered up to the Dutch, who has not yet taken possession of their Factories on this coast. They have been at war with the Mallays, and in the whole their power in India seem[s] to be very much on the decline. . . ."

"PELLING & DE FRIES."

[3 pp., 4to.]

[No. 401.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1785, July 12th, Trichinapoly. Received 10th April, 1786.—This goes by a French ship. I am glad to learn "that my little boy was safe arrived at Haldon House. Your intentions of putting him to the school at St. Mary Ottery has given us much pleasure, and I doubt not from the tendency of his disposition but he will give Lady Palk and you, my very much esteemed Sir, satisfaction. Mrs. P. is very desirous of embracing the opportunity of General Lang's return to Europe to send Kitty and Bob with her sister Mrs. Lang, but I think Bob too young to be parted with. . . .

"By the late orders from home the Nabob is upon the point of being again put in possession of the Carnatick. This day or to-morrow it will, I believe, take place, his Highness having engaged to pay to the Company 4 lacks of pagodas more than the Presidency had authority to stipulate for. Should the old gentleman perform, we shall have no occasion to repent the change, though our situation cannot well be worse than at present. Besides the old arrears to the troops we are incurring new ones from 1st February last, going on 6 months. Having told you this, you will be naturally led to conclude that there are defects somewhere. It is a melancholy truth, as is that of the troops having suffered a loss of 8 per cent. in all payments since Mr. Irwin<sup>(1)</sup> received the management of this district, arising from his introduction of the debased coin of Tinnevely, and stopping the coinage of this. Complaints have been made, but the transaction has been so plausibly coloured over that Lord M. approved of it. Such injustice to troops meriting the

(1) Eyles Irwin, a civil servant of 1768, was one of the Commissioners of Assigned Revenue in 1781.

most kind treatment, who have to my knowledge for the last 4 years laboured under the most uncommon hardships, is most sensibly felt, and if not redressed by this Government, which I hope is a more moderate one than the last, meaning Lord M.'s, a very unpleasant detail of grievances will be laid before the Company. Believe me, Sir, I have seen the native troops perishing in the streets, selling their children for a rupee, and it is not a month ago that they were begging about the cantonments almost in the same condition. . . . These, Sir, are truths that happen under my own eye. The native troops are so sensible of the ill-treatment they have received from Government that it is the general opinion they never will suffer themselves to feel the like distress again. The reasons are many and obvious for my communicating these facts to you, for it is my opinion that the existence of the British Empire in India depends upon their being redressed or not.

"Mr. Davidson is at present in the Chair, and I cannot say that our honourable masters have shewn their wisdom in providing a successor to Lord M., but we are in daily expectation of Mr. Holland's<sup>(1)</sup> arrival. . . ."

"THO. PALK."

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 402.]

THO[MA]S ABRAHAM to SIR R[OBERT] PALK, Bart.

1785, August 6th, Calcutta.—It is reported that Lord Macartney, who arrived here five or six days ago, after resigning the Government of Madras, has been appointed Governor General of Bengal. As, however, he has not taken his seat, it is thought he must have declined the post. Failing his Lordship, I hope that Mr. Vansittart will be appointed. The Government are retrenching expenditure, and the people of Calcutta are preparing a petition against certain clauses of the late Act of Parliament.<sup>(2)</sup>

I send my respects to Lady and Miss Palk, and beg you to remember me to Lawrence when you write to him, as I understand that he is now in France.

"THOS. ABRAHAM."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 403.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. SIR ROBERT PALK, Baronet.

1785, September 17th, Madrass.—In May last orders arrived from the Company to restore the Assigned Districts to the Nawab, and to receive from him yearly 12 lakhs of pagodas on account of his debt to the Company and private creditors, and 4 lakhs

(1) Mr. John Holland was nominated by the Directors to succeed Lord Macartney, but he declined the appointment. After the resignation of Sir Archibald Campbell in 1789 Mr. Holland served for a year as provisional Governor.

(2) The India Act of 1784.

for current charges. Lord Macartney, disapproving of these instructions, resigned and proceeded to Bengal on his way home. The Company's packet delivered here on the 16th July nominated him Governor General of Bengal. The orders were at once forwarded to Calcutta, but Lord Macartney declined the appointment and sailed for England in the *Swallow* on the 10th August.

The Government here is in the hands of Mr. Davidson, with Sir John Dalling and Mr. Daniell as Councillors. They arranged to deliver the territories to the Nawab, but the latter could not find sower security for the payment he was bound to make. He promised, however, to pay three lakhs this month, six in January and seven in June.

"The Marattys sent their Vackeel here to request for our assistance to beat Tippoo. By what I hear our Government does not chuse to do it. I hope they will do, and destroy Tippoo entirely, as he is always [an] enemy to us."

It is reported that General Campbell<sup>(1)</sup> is to succeed Lord Macartney. As the latter has refused Bengal, it seems likely that the General will go there, in which case another appointment will be made to Madras.

"CHOCAPAH."

[*Autograph*, 2¼ pp., 4to. *Duplicate*.]

[No. 404.]

GEORGE BAKER to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1785, October 10th, Fort St. George.—I send this by Mr. Thomas Barnard,<sup>(2)</sup> late of the Masulipatam Council, who takes his passage by a French ship from Pondicherry. I acknowledge receipt of your letters of December, 1784, and March and April, 1785, and thank you for all you have done towards recovering my money from the Company. Mr. Kennaway wrote to me in April that the principal sum of my bonds had been received, but only two years' interest instead of three.

"GEORGE BAKER."

[*Holograph*, 3 pp., 4to.]

[No. 405.]

FUTWOOD SMERDON to WALTER PALK, jun.,<sup>(3)</sup> Ashburton.

1785, November 8th, Ottery.—"As it is usual with me to send my bills half yearly, I have taken the liberty of writing out Master Palk's,<sup>(4)</sup> which you will, I trust, find perfectly right. He is in good health and spirits, and has no suspicion that the Christmas vacation is drawing on.

(1) Major General Sir Archibald Campbell, K.B., an officer of Royal Engineers of 1758, was lent to the East India Company from 1761 to 1772 as Chief Engineer, Bengal. He was Governor of Madras from 1786 to 1789.

(2) Thomas Barnard, a civil servant of 1765, known for his valuable survey of the Company's *Jagir*.

(3) Son of Walter Palk, sen., and nephew of Sir Robert Palk.

(4) Thomas Palk, jun., son of Thomas Palk of the Madras civil service.



"The dancing master, Monsr. Faye, having succeeded Tolver in his schools, demanded no entrance for your nephew. Master Tom begs me to present his affectionate duty to his Uncle and Aunt, who will have the goodness to accept of mine and Mrs. Smerdon's respectful compliments."

"FUTWOOD SMERDON."

"*Master T. Palk to Michaelmas, 1785 (half-year).*

"Board and tuition, £15 15s.; washing, £1 1s.; mending, 5s.; servants, 5s.; shoe-cleaning, 2s. 6d.; in weekly threepences, 5s. 9d.; spelling book, Reading made easy, Watts' hymns and a smaller book, 2s. 6d.; April 11, a pair of gloves and garters, 1s. 6d.; June 17, paid driver for conveying Master P. to Exeter, 2s.; gave Master P. at same time, 6d.; to cutting hair at different times, 1s.; a hymn book and prayer, 1s. 4d.; Total £18 3s. 1d.

"Dancing master to Michaelmas, £1 11s. 6d.; entrance, nil; writing master, 12s.; shoemaker's bill, 11s. 3d.; two pair of worsted stockings, 3s. Total, £2 17s. 9d."

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to. Wax seal with monogram.*]

[*Endorsement.*]"Mr. Smerdon's bill, £21 0s. 10d.; to a pair shoes, 2s. 9d.; to breeches and waistcoat, 14s. 7d.; to a hat, 4s. 3d.; to entrance at Mr. Smerdon's School, £4 4s.; to Mrs. Cooksley for schooling, £3 1s. 6d.; to Mr. Davis for cloath, £1 6s.; to Mr. Stone for shoes, 7s.; to a hat, 10s. Total, £31 10s. 11d.

"9 Nov., 1785. Received the above.

"WALTER PALK, Junr."

[*Autograph, 1 p., 4to.*]

[No. 406.]

LAWRENCE PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Haldon House, Exeter.

1785, December 3rd, Neuchâtel.—I enclose a letter for Sir Bouchier Wrey. "I am happy to find that my sister has made so good a choice, and it is the most anxious wish of my heart that she may meet with that happiness she most justly merits. . . . I am but just risen from my bed, to which I have been confined this week past by an operation which has given me the greatest pain, but the good effects of which I already begin to feel. Having been recommended to a dentist, the excellency of whose talents has gained him a decided superiority over the other masters in his profession, I determined to follow the advice of my friends, and summoned up sufficient resolution to have one of those *great tusks* entirely pulled out, and the rest of my teeth put in order. The operation, I can assure you, has succeeded, and though the pain has not entirely left me, I have every reason to be satisfied, and my mouth is no longer ashamed to be seen.

"I am now quite settled, and find my residence very agreeable. The language comes *apace*, and I am now able to join pretty well in the conversation. . . . At present the French and fencing masters only give me employment, but I intend taking a drawing master, as I find there is one of ability here, and every day convinces me of the utility and pleasure which is to be derived from a knowledge of that art. . . ."

"LAWRENCE PALK."

[*Holograph, 3 pp., 4to. Wax seal with crest.*]

[No. 407.]

A[BRAHAM] WELLAND to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1785, December 13th, Guttal.—"By the arrival of the last ships from England we find that the Court of Directors have thought proper to reduce our salaries more than one half, and also to add that this is but a trifle to what we may expect. Small as they may conceive it to be, I am apprehensive it will cause a very great change, for how can it be supposed that when we are not allowed a sufficiency to live on we shall scruple at peculation of any thing else to procure a competency? Should they also, as we hear it is intended, cut off the batta from the allowances of the officers, this country, I fear, will not remain much longer in their hands. A number of gentlemen have already resigned their offices, and are gone to live at Serampore, Chinsurah and Chandernagore on account of every thing being much cheaper at those places than in Calcutta. Many others have given up the Company's service altogether, and are going home on the ships that are now about to sail. A captain of one of the Indiamen has received a lack and [a] half of rupees for passengers only. Five and twenty families, besides a number of other gentlemen of the first rank in the service intend to return this year to Europe. Mr. Larkins,<sup>(1)</sup> the Accountant General, has had fifty thousand rupees cut off from his salary. Mr. Kenna-way is reduced from two thousand to five hundred rupees *per mensem*, and the rest in proportion. Small as my allowances were, they have, however, thought fit to deduct four hundred rupees from it monthly. In short, there is not a Company's servant from a Senior Merchant to a Writer but who has in some degree suffered; so that the misfortune, being general, is not so severely felt as it otherwise would be. The saving altogether to the Company amounts to about fifty lacks of rupees. The Governor and Council had, before the arrival of these orders, reduced our establishment as low as was thought possible, but this was so very small in comparison to the Court of Directors' [instructions] that they will gain neither credit nor honor by it.

"On the 6th instant the *Montague*, Capt. Brittel, was burnt at her moorings at Diamond Point. Fifty of her people perished, among whom [was] her chief officer. The *Dublin* was much

(1) William Larkins, a Bengal civil servant.

hurt by the explosion. It was occasioned by the carelessness of the armourer, who in carrying some fire from the galley to the forge let drop a few coals on the salt petre, which instantly took fire, and notwithstanding all the exertions of the crew communicated itself to the whole ship. This is the fifth Indiaman the Company have lost by fire within these two years past.

"Our petition to the House of Commons against certain clauses of Mr. Pitt's Act of Parliament<sup>(1)</sup> will be ready to be sent home by the last ship of the season. A committee of fifteen gentlemen have been sitting for these six months past, among whom is Mr. Vansittart. The petition has been framed, and signed by most of the people here. Old Price,<sup>(2)</sup> the person who wrote so virulently against Mr. Macintosh<sup>(3)</sup> and Mr. Francis, has, under the feigned name of An Inhabitant of Calcutta, given every support in his power to the Bill. No person on its first arrival could say more against it than he did, and I am very certain that he was one of the party who at a drinking bout burnt it.

"Accompanying I have the pleasure of sending you all the news papers for the last year, and also Mr. Dallas's<sup>(4)</sup> speech at a meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta, with many other publications, which I hope will afford you some amusement . . ."

"Your very dutiful nephew, A. WELLAND."

[*Holograph, 8 pp., 4to.*]

[*Enclosure.*] Printed copy of resolutions passed "at a meeting of the British inhabitants of Calcutta, held at the Theatre on Monday the 25th of July [1785] in pursuance of a public summons by the High Sheriff at the request of the Grand Jury, on the 15th of June last, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety and necessity of a petition on certain parts of an Act of the 24th of his present Majesty, entitled 'An Act for the better regulation of the affairs of the East India Company and of the British possessions in India, and for establishing a Court of Judicature for the more speedy and effectual trial of persons accused of offences committed in the East Indies.'"

Eighteen resolutions were proposed and unanimously agreed to. The following are the most important:—

*Resolution 2.* Protests against the obligation imposed on the Company's servants, on their return home, to deliver upon oath an inventory of their whole property.

*Resolution 3.*—Represents that the new tribunal deprives them of their birthright, trial by jury.

*Resolution 4.* States that the Act renders them liable to

(1) The India Act of 1784, which established a Board of six Commissioners for India, commonly known as the Board of Control.

(2) Captain Joseph Price wrote pamphlets in defence of Hastings against Francis and Macintosh.

(3) William Macintosh, author of *Travels in Europe, Asia, &c.* (1782), was a supporter of Francis.

(4) George Dallas, a Bengal civil servant of 1776. He was created a baronet in 1798.



be sent forcibly to England, there to be tried for offences said to have been committed in India.

*Resolution 7.* States that petitions to the King and Parliament are desirable.

*Resolution 8.* Determines that a Committee of fifteen be appointed to draw up petitions.

*Resolution 13.* Gives the names of the Committee.

[2 pp., *flscp.*]

[No. 408.]

F. D'IVERNOIS to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Haldon House, Exeter.

1785, December 24th, Neuchâtel.—I notice the hint you have given your son regarding an early move to Germany and Italy. I was about to make a similar suggestion. The fact is, your son is too much at home at Neuchâtel. His familiarity with the society we meet tends to make him relax that effort to please which he would be compelled to exert with fresh acquaintances of superior rank. . . . The notion which Mr. Beeke<sup>(1)</sup> has imparted to you of your son's spending the coming summer in Germany is well adapted to this end, provided that his halts are limited in duration, that he obtains recommendations to the Courts of Dresden, Berlin and Vienna, and that he associates with people of the country rather than with young English travellers. Here he is too intimate with Mr. Spencer, who resides in this house. The latter is of good family and possesses many excellent qualities, but he has more to gain by association with Palk than your son with him. Spencer is apt to be idle, and he deprives your son of time which would otherwise be devoted to literature.

Your son will certainly be reluctant to quit Neuchâtel, but there is no object in his remaining save the improvement of his French, in which he makes steady progress. I suggest that you might urge him, as if of your own motion, to spend March in the south of France in order to perfect himself in the language, which is spoken more rapidly there than in Switzerland. . . .

“ F. D'IVERNOIS.”

[*Holograph, French, 3 pp., 4to. Wax seal, defaced.*]

[No. 409.]

A[BRAHAM] WELLAND to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1785, December 25th, Calcutta. —I am sorry to hear that my friends consider me backward in writing to them. “ I would willingly compound with their employing one hour to my two in our correspondence. . . . I have not received more than twelve letters from them since my residence in this country,

(1) *Vide* No. 470, p. 420, note 1.

which is now almost four years. I do not, however, include you in this number. . . .

"I shall certainly follow your advice with regard to my cousin Abraham.<sup>(1)</sup> He at present lives with me in the Writers' Buildings, to which I have, since the late reductions, been entitled to a room. I must indeed own that my utmost exertions have lately been used to rid him of a little of his country rust, and by dint of perseverance my efforts in some respects have not been rendered ineffectual. I shall now, however, change my conduct, and from being master submit myself to be a scholar. He undoubtedly deserves great credit for his attention to business, and in leading so regular a life. If one may judge of his future fortune by his present manners, I will venture to say that he will not discredit your opinion of him.

"I always have and shall continue to apply to Mr. Kennaway for his advice or assistance, whenever necessary. . . . The late reduction in his salary has given him much discontent, and I should not wonder if he was, in the space of one or two years, to return to Europe. Captain Kennaway is at present at Benares, but will come to Calcutta soon. Since his arrival from the Coast he has labored under a severe fit of sickness, and we were at one time in some anxiety for fear that his ill state of health should oblige him to quit the country.

"The *Surprise* packet has, we hear, brought great news, but the particulars have not yet transpired. We are all much surprised at Mr. Macpherson's being continued in the Government. His abilities are no ways suited to it, nor indeed are any of his coadjutors, particularly Mr. Stables, whose head is too thick ever to cut a very conspicuous figure. I think the character Mr. Hastings gave of them in his last letter to the Court of Directors was a very just one. Six lacks of rupees were dispatched the other day to Bombay, and they have also incumbered themselves with the whole debt incurred there by the Maratta War. Twelve lacks more are ordered on board the *Rodney* for Madrass, while our most capital merchants here are distressed beyond measure for cash, and have almost stopped business for want of money. . . .

"General Sloper has lost a good deal of his popularity here by appointing King's officers to the command of the out stations, greatly to the detriment of the Company's military, who have held several meetings to consult about it. . . .

"Your dutiful nephew,

"A. WELLAND."

[P.S.]—"Major Cloud's<sup>(2)</sup> regiment of seapoys have confined their officers, and will not march till their whole arrears of pay are given to them."

[Holograph, 8 pp., 4to.]

(1) Thomas Abraham. *Vide* No. 389, p. 357, note 2.

(2) Apparently Major William Clode, Bengal Infantry, who entered the service in 1766.

[No. 410.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1785, December 25th, Trichinapoly.—“ I have just heard that the *Rodney* Indiaman is to be at Madras about the end of the month, and to wait there but twenty-four hours. By her I have the pleasure to send you duplicate of a sett of bills for £2,000, and the first of another sett for £4,400, both made payable to you. The first remittance of £800 through the same channel is, I hope, paid. . . .

“ Mrs. Palk and the three young ones are very well. We were disappointed in not having a single line by the *Surprise*, but suppose her dispatch to be sudden. . . .

“ THO. PALK.”

[Holograph, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 411.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1786, January 5th, Madrass. Received 26th August.—By advices received from England in November we heard that the ships of the new French East India Company may be expected to arrive this season, and that all private merchants must cease trading by the 8th October. There are now about 2,000 European troops at Pondicherry, where some work on the fortifications is in progress.

We are happy to learn that free trade to Manila is now open to us. Mr. Sadleir, Chief at Masulipatam, has preferred sundry charges against Mr. Daniell, who is about to sail for England. There has been good rain, and the country is in better condition than it has been at any time during the past five years.

“ CHOCAPAH.”

[Autograph, 2½ pp., 4to. Duplicate.]

[No. 412.]

MESSRS. PELLING &amp; DE FRIES to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1786, January 12th, Fort St. George.—“ The Nabob appointed Messrs Storey<sup>(1)</sup> and Binny<sup>(2)</sup> his agents to meet the Company's Commissioners for ascertaining the three classes of his debt to individuals, agreeable to the orders from Europe. The interest on the bonds has been adjusted to the 31st December, 1784, when the total of the three debts amounted to near seventy lacks of pagodas. The Nabob has been paying regularly according to the agreement he entered into with this Government to pay annually sixteen lacks of pagodas. If the Company's orders are strictly adhered to, the creditors should have a dividend in next month; but there is no saying what the necessity of this Government may induce them to do, for the

(1) Dr. Robert Storey, surgeon to the Nawab.

(2) Charles Binny, formerly secretary to Sir Thomas Rumbold, was now secretary to the Nawab.



expenses are very great. The King's troops are a heavy charge. The arrears to the army remain still unpaid, and Government paper [is] selling at a great discount from the continual increase of the bond debt, as most accounts are adjusted by granting bonds. The distresses of individuals from not having received any part of the Nabob's debt for so long a space of time are great, and affect the trade and welfare of the Settlement.

"Mr. Sadleir, Chief at Mazulipatam, seem[s] to be more employed in preparing accusations and informations against his predecessors than in collecting the revenues entrusted to his charge. Mr. Daniell goes by this ship, and Mr. Floyer is to succeed him at the Council Board.

"We have had a report for a week past that Tippoo is killed. It wants confirmation, but the report coming from various parts, it is probable he has met with some misfortune. The Marattas [are] threatening invading his country. We have had no intercourse of trade with the Mysore Country since the peace, Tippoo keeping the passes closely guarded. . . .

"We have a report that the Company, having taken up an extraordinary number of ships this year, will permit their servants and others living under their jurisdiction to send piece goods on freight to England. This will be a wise plan, as the Company have no funds for carrying on an Investment on the Coast, there being hardly a thousand bales made on their account during the whole year; and if private trade is permitted to be carried on the Company's ships, it will be a great convenience to their servants or others living under their protection, and will be of great national benefit. It will besides effectually defeat the commercial operations of foreign nations to India, as they will be deprived of the assistance of British money. If the Company don't fall on some such method, they will neither benefit by their trade nor be able to act in competition with the foreign traders."

"PELLING & DE FRIES."

[2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 413.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, January 12th, Trichinapoly.—I enclose two sets of bills in your favour, one for 2,000*l* and the other for 4,000*l*. This goes by a French conveyance.

"THO. PALK."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., *flscp*.]

[No. 414.]

WALTER PALK, jun., to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Haldon House.

1786, January 16th, Ashburton.—I return the letters from Vansittart and Kennaway. I have consulted my father, who

agrees with me that their claims on my brother Tom and Abraham Welland should be relinquished. The legacies to them may accordingly be paid. I have entered the legacy to Thomas Withecombe,<sup>(1)</sup> as it was omitted before.

“WALTER PALK, jun.”

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 415.]

F. D'IVERNIS to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bruton Street.

1786, January 17th, Neufchâtel. Received 28th January.—I hasten to give the information you ask for about your son's teeth. Two of the upper ones were irregular, a circumstance which not only affected what may be called *la décoration de sa bouche*, but interfered with its hygiene. A lady who is a friend of your son advised him to avail himself of the skill of a dentist of repute who visits Neufchâtel twice a year. The dentist was at first inclined simply to remove both teeth, but he afterwards judged that the interval left by one of them would allow of his replacing the tooth after he had extracted it and reduced its size. This was the operation which he skilfully performed on a courageous patient. The space left by the tooth which was entirely removed has already diminished. Our only fear now is that the other tooth, which was taken out and replaced may not become as firm as the rest.

I thank you, Sir, for your interest in what concerns myself. I am entirely at your service if you wish me to continue the tour as your son's companion. His friend I shall ever remain. He is prepared to leave Neufchâtel in March if the roads are then practicable. In travelling through Germany I propose that we hurry over the smaller Courts and make a prolonged stay only in the three or four principal cities. Dresden would be the first place for such a stay on our way to Berlin, unless the Court Palatine should be at Mannheim. Letters of recommendation we shall of course need.

“F. D'IVERNIS.”

P.S. —In the account which I sent you last October there was a slight error, although the total was correct. The personal expenses for three travellers should have been £5.057, and the common expenses £8.676 16s. Total £13.733 16s.<sup>(1)</sup> Of the personal expenses I owe £626. The balance relates to Messrs Palk and Beeke.

Our further expenses from the 27th Sept. to the 31st Dec. have been £6,863 15s., of which £1,689 10s. is due from me. Grand total, £20,597 11s.

Should you wish it I will furnish a more detailed statement.

[*Holograph*, French, 3 pp., 4to. Wax seal with arms, defaced.]

(1) *Vide* No. 22, p. 39, note 1.

(2) The *livre* corresponded with the modern franc, and contained 20 *sous*,

[No. 416.]

THO[MA]S ABRAHAM to SIR R[OBERT] PALK, Bart.

1786, January 23rd, Calcutta.—I now hold two appointments in the Commercial Department, one in the office of Secretary to the Board of Trade on 100 sicca rupees a month, the other in the Export Warehouse on 150. In the Revenue Department I receive 100, so that with my Writer's allowance I draw about 450 sicca rupees in all. Although the greater part is paid in paper, on which there is a heavy discount, I esteem myself fortunate.

"Every person here, I think, seems tired of the present Government, and I believe it is the general wish that Mr. Hastings may come out again; but nobody supposes he will, unless possessed of greater powers than the Board of Controul will be willing to give him. . . . There has been some talk lately of a French war, and that the Council here were going to send a vessel to the Mauritius to make enquiry relative to some troops that are there; but I hope it is without foundation, as if a war was to break out now, they would probably take many of our homeward bound Indiamen, which would be a very great loss to the Company, especially those from China of this year, as they have so much tea on board. . . ."

"THOS. ABRAHAM."

[Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 417.]

LAWRENCE PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, February 4th, Besançon.—"My dear Father,—You will no doubt be surprised at receiving a letter from me at this place. Thus far I have accompanied my friend Spencer on his return to England, and shall leave him tomorrow to proceed on his journey. He has promised me to be the bearer of this letter himself. . . ."

From your last letter to M. D'Ivernois I judge that you wish us to leave Neufchâtel in March. I fear, however, the weather will not permit us to start so soon, for there is every reason to expect snow.

"I hear with pleasure that Lord Macartney is returned from Madras, and has refused the Governor Generalship:—with pleasure, because in that case my Uncle George may be sure of gaining the election if he has the least idea to attempt it.

"I now begin to talk French fluently, but never expect to arrive at the same point of perfection as my friend Spencer, whose accent cannot be distinguished from that of a Frenchman. You may perhaps have an opportunity of hearing him and judging yourself. For the German, it goes on very slowly, but when the first difficulties are surmounted, I flatter myself I



shall make sufficient progress to be able to make my way through Germany, that is to say at the inns, etc., for as for talking it fluently, I give up all hopes. . . .”

“LAWRENCE PALK.”

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 418.]

F. D'IVERNOIS to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street.

1786, February 6th, Neuchâtel.—Your son has just returned after accompanying Mr. Spencer on part of his journey. M. de Traytorrens went with them. You seem to be unfavourable to the intimacy with Mr. Spencer, but as the latter lived in the same house, ordinary courtesy compelled some association, and it is impossible not to like him. The disadvantage of the tendency of the two young men to converse in English is now removed by Mr. Spencer's departure.

You are desirous that we should leave Neuchâtel as soon as possible, but I suppose not before March. Your son would like to stay longer, and many here will certainly regret his departure. I beg you to intimate to him, as of your own motion, the beginning or middle of March as the time for leaving Switzerland.

“F. D'IVERNOIS.”

[*Holograph*, French, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to. Wax seal bearing arms.]

[No. 419.]

HENRY VANSITTART, jun., to JOHN CAILLAUD,<sup>(1)</sup> Esq.

1786, February 9th, Calcutta.—I send this by the hand of your particular friend Mr. Droz.<sup>(2)</sup> He is embarrassed on account of his bond of about Rs. 9,000 left by the late Mr. Palk, which ought to have been cancelled, as Mr. Droz never obtained the consideration for which the bond was given. The executors have no power to release Mr. Droz from the debt, but the circumstances should be laid before Sir Robert Palk in view to the claim being relinquished. I hope that you will be able to assist in the matter. Please remember me to Mrs. Caillaud.

“HENRY VANSITTART.”

[*Holograph*, 2 pp., 4to.]

[No. 420.]

THE REV. SAMUEL BADCOCK<sup>(3)</sup> to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1786, February 11th, South Molton.—“I received the box of MSS. last week perfectly secure. I shall soon be at leisure to examine them with the care which they deserve, and will

(1) General John Caillaud. *Vide* No. 73, p. 102, note, 1.

(2) Simeon Droz, a Bengal civil servant of 1764.

(3) Samuel Badcock was a Nonconformist minister of South Molton, Devon, who contributed to literary magazines, especially the *Monthly Review*. He entered the Established Church in 1786, and died two years later at the age of 41,

endeavour to reduce this disordered mass to some degree of consistency. I am more and more convinced of their utility to any one who may have health, abilities and spirit to undertake a History of the County; and when arranged on the plan I have projected, they will be a most curious repository of materials both to amuse and to inform the antiquary. . . .

"I may at some future period engage in an undertaking of which indeed I had formed no conception a short time since. I would not indeed have it publicly known that I entertain even the most distant prospect of writing a regular History of the County of Devon, nor would I have it supposed that I shall proceed beyond an arrangement of the papers which you have done me the honour of entrusting to my charge. . . . After I have classed the MSS., and written a catalogue of them and such an index to their several contents as may facilitate the researches and inquiries of any person who may have the curiosity to inspect them, I will return them to you with care and fidelity."

"SAMUEL BADCOCK."

"P.S.—I hope I have not taken too great freedom by enclosing a letter to a friend who hath the superintendence of the *Monthly Review*."

[*Holograph, 2 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 421.]

LAWRENCE PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK.

1786, February 13th, Neuchâtel.—"My dear Father. At my return from Besançon last Monday I found a letter from you. . . . With regard to quitting Neuchâtel, we shall be ready whenever you think proper. For my own part I must own I shall be rather sorry to leave it so soon, as I am convinced it is almost impossible, at least very difficult, to find another little town, the society of which is so excellent and the manners so polished. By the departure of Spencer there is no Englishman but myself in Mrs. Borel's house, and in the town but two, . . . so that I shall undoubtedly acquire the French much quicker than I did heretofore. . . .

"I am happy to hear that things are so nearly settled relative to my sister's marriage. That she may derive from it every happiness and blessing . . . is the only desire of my heart. . . .

"Mr. D'Ivernois tells me he has satisfied you with regard to the sums we have expended since your last letter of credit . . . I shall wait till I receive another letter from you before I consult Mr. D'Ivernois upon our tour for the spring. He seems, however, to prefer Germany to the South of France, and wishes our first course to be to Berlin. . . .

"I suppose Haldon will be so entirely altered when I return that it will almost be impossible for me to recognize it. I hear

the winter has been remarkably severe in England, and has done considerable damage. I hope your plantations have not come in for their share. My best duty attend my mother, with love to Nancy and Emelia . . .

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

“L. PALK.”

[No. 422.]

THO[MAS] PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK.

1786, February 15th, Trichinapoly.—“By this conveyance (a Dane) I transmit you a third sett of bills on Copenhagen for 2,400*l.*, which sum will, I hope, bring my remittances to near 10,000*l.*, to which Walter will, I imagine, add *the legacy*<sup>(1)</sup>. . .

“The funding of the Company’s debts incurred in India was very much to be wished by us all, but we have not been guilty of peculation to that extent as to induce us to accept of it upon the terms it offers for doing it. However wanting its constituents may be to do their servants justice, I never despaired of receiving it from the hands of our employers, but the proposed exchange of 1*s.* 8*d.* the rupee manifests them to be no better; though I cannot think but some error has been committed somewhere, which the arrival of General Campbell must clear up. . . . Were it not for the general good character given of him, we should have little more to hope for than what we experience from the present Administration. Lord M. is certainly very culpable in leaving the Chair to so weak and indolent a man as fills it at present, that never was capable of conducting even his own domestick affairs.

“Mr. Daniell, appointed Governor C.’s successor, sailed the very day before this news arrived, and though it is evident the Company never meant that Mr. Floyer should . . . hold a seat at the Board, he was sworn in the 14th day after Mr. D.’s departure, though his appointment to Cuddalore was known before it took place, and of Mr. Cas[a]major’s<sup>(2)</sup> to succeed Mr. Daniell. . . .”

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

“THO. PALK.”

[No. 423.]

MESSRS. AYTON, BRASSEY & Co., to SIR ROB[ER]T PALK, Bart.,  
Bruton Street.

1786, February 17th, Lombard Street.—Messrs. Agassiz, Rougemont & Co., to whom we gave a guarantee to pay bills up to 500*l.* drawn by your son, inform us that this sum is exhausted. Please state whether you wish us to give a further guarantee.

[1 *p.*, 4*to.*]

“AYTON BRASSEY & Co.”

[Endorsed in Sir. R. Palk’s hand].—“Desired Lawrence may have a credit for a 3rd 500*l.* more.”

(1) The legacy of £2,000 left by Robert Palk, jun.

(2) James Henry Casamaijor, son of Noah and Rebecca Casamaijor, a civil servant of 1762. *Vide* No. 18, *p.* 22, note 3.



[No. 424.]

MESSRS. HENRY VANSITTART & R[ICHARD] KENNAWAY to  
[SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, February 22nd, Calcutta. A bond from Mr. Droz to Mr. Palk for Current Rupees 9,000 at 1 per cent. was found among the latter's papers. It was payable on the 31st January, 1784, when we claimed the amount, but Mr. Droz denied having received any consideration for the bond. We enclose his affidavit. He states that the intended consideration "was a Filature or building for winding silk, in the neighbourhood of Cossimbuzar, of which he should have received possession to render the obligation of the bond complete, but which was never yielded to him: on the contrary, that Mr. Palk, holding a contract for raw silk under another name with the Board of Trade, continued to employ this Filature in the provision of his silk." The latter part of this statement is confirmed by the enquiries we have made. As to whether the Filature was the consideration for the bond, we cannot speak positively, but we are inclined to think that Mr. Droz's assertion is correct. The Filature was sold by Mr. Palk before his departure for Rs. 8,000.

Mr. Droz says that Mr. Palk promised to return the bond, but the matter was delayed partly by the latter's illness, and partly by his own absence from Calcutta. We have no power ourselves to grant release, but refer the case to you for disposal.

"HENRY VANSITTART,  
R. KENNAWAY."

[Autographs, 3½ pp., 4to. Duplicate.]

[No. 425.]

THO[MA]S ABRAHAM to SIR R[OBERT] PALK.

1786, February 25th, Calcutta.—"Since my last we have had agreeable news from England for those who are in the possession of Company's bonds, and much in arrears, vizt. that the Government General have permission to draw on them to the amount of 6 crores of rupees—about 6 million sterling. The only objection to this mode of payment is that it is rather a bad remittance, as the Current Rupee is to be drawn only at 1s. 8d., and the payment in England will be so very long and doubtful. There is also a new plan adopted here in the payment of the Company's servants with a view of stopping the present very high discount on the Company's treasury orders, and making the late reductions as light as possible, which at best must be bad. This is a plan of Mr. Larkins's, the Accountant General. How far it will succeed time only will discover. The mode is by certificates bearing interest. . . .

"I had, a few weeks ago, some prospect of going up as an assistant to the Collector of Chittagong from the promises Mr. Macpherson made me, and of his wishes to serve me in consequence of my letter to him from Lord North. Indeed I cannot

blame him for it, as another gentleman was applied for by the Collector, and it is a compliment generally paid the Chiefs and Collectors of appointing the assistants they apply for. . . . I have still some hopes of getting up the country some where. . . . Mr. Macpherson has always been very friendly to me whenever I have gone to speak to him, and expressed his wishes to serve me, which gives me the greater hopes of success in my application, as I see everything still goes by interest notwithstanding the late Act of Parliament. I can convince you of this no better than by telling you that the greatest part of the many appointments that have been given away lately have been given to Scotchmen.

“ Mr. Williams<sup>(1)</sup> from Exeter has got a very good appointment lately, but it was, I believe, owing to his being appointed by the Court of Directors to succeed upon the first vacancy. We are in very great hopes of getting a new Governor in a little time. Every person seems to be tired of the present one already. . . .

“ My best respects to Lady [and] Miss Palk, Emelia, and Lawrence when you write him, as I suppose he is in France . . . ”  
 “ THOS. ABRAHAM.”

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 426.]

MESSRS. AYTON BRASSEY & Co. to SIR ROB[ER]T PALK, Bart.,  
 Bruton Street.

1786, February 25th, Lombard Street.—Stating that a further credit of 500*l.* has been assigned to Messrs. Agassiz, Rougemont & Co., to be drawn on by Mr. Lawrence Palk at Neuchâtel and Vienna.

[1 *p.*, 4*to.*]

[Endorsed in Sir R. Palk's hand]. “ A third 500*l.* to Lawrence.”

[No. 427.]

LAWRENCE PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, March 2nd, Neuchâtel.—“ My dear Father,—I am happy to hear that Mr. Spencer has given you the letter with which I charged him, but am sorry that he has given you so bad an account of my progress in French. . . . ”

I shall be ready to leave Neuchâtel directly I receive letters of recommendation and credit. I fear there is no prospect of meeting Lord Wycombe,<sup>(2)</sup> as we cannot reach Vienna under three weeks, by which time he will have left. I am distressed to hear of Emelia's serious illness, but hope soon to have better news.

(1) John Williams, a Bengal civil servant of 1783, was assistant in the Secretary's office in 1785.

(2) John, only son of the 1st Marquess of Lansdowne and 2nd Earl of Shelburne.

"I shall be extremely happy to hear that my sister is united to Sir Bouchier.<sup>(1)</sup> . . . I willingly promise that I never will propose to any lady to whom either you or my mother object, and your goodness to me upon every occasion makes me flatter myself you would not wish to oblige me to make choice of one that I do not approve. Your fortune is certainly of your own acquiring, and I would not wish to have the least share of it if you have the least reason to imagine I do not deserve it. Hitherto I have done every thing in my power to show you how grateful I am for all the kindnesses bestowed upon me—kindnesses which I never shall forget, and in return for which I shall ever make it my study to oblige you. Adieu, my dear Father; I earnestly join in every wish that it may be possible for me to render myself such a character as you desire, and to deserve which will always be the endeavour of

"Your ever dutiful and affectionate son, LAWRENCE PALK."

[*Holograph*, 3½ pp., 4to.]

[No. 428.]

LAWRENCE PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street.

1786, March 5th, Neuchâtel.—"My dear Father,—I received this morning your letter of the 13th last month. . . . As it seems to be your desire that I should quit Neuchâtel immediately I should do it with the greatest pleasure, did not the want of letters of recommendation hinder me, and more so as it is impossible to arrive at Vienna before the departure of Lord Wycombe. . . .

"The character I have heard of Sir Bouchier from every quarter, and especially so from our common friend Mr. Becher,<sup>(2)</sup> makes me exceedingly happy in the thoughts of his alliance to our family. . . .

"Mr. D'Ivernois has accompanied his sisters on their return to Geneva. They have been here for a few days to assist at a ball I have lately given to my friends at Neuchâtel *selon l'usage*. . . . I can assure you he justly merits my confidence. I esteem myself superiorly happy in having joined so good and amiable a friend. . . .

"Your account of Lord Cornwallis's success with regard to the Governor Generalship gives me rather more pain than pleasure, as I expected my Uncle George<sup>(3)</sup> would have been appointed, knowing he rather desired it. . . ."

"LAWRENCE PALK."

[*Holograph*, 3¼ pp., 4to. *Wax seal*.]

(1) Sir Bouchier Wrey, Bt. *Vide p.* 396, note 1.

(2) Probably Richard Becher, a Director of the Company from 1775 to 1783. *Cf.* No. 101, *p.* 131, note 3.

(3) George Vansittart.



[No. 429.]

F. D'IVERNIS to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street.

1786, March 9th, Neuchâtel.—I enclose an account of the money we have drawn since we left England, so that you may judge what fresh credit will be needed. There is still a balance of 200 louis with Messrs. Pourtales.

Your son gave a very pleasant entertainment a week ago to his acquaintances, for it is the custom with the English on leaving to acknowledge thus the various attentions received during their stay. What pleased me most was the general praise accorded to Mr. Palk for the ease, gaiety and air of distinction with which he did the honours. He was kind enough to invite my sisters, so I had to be absent four days to escort them homeward until we could meet my mother half way from Geneva. On my return your son told me that you had again urged his departure. He wished to wait for letters of recommendation to Germany, but I conclude that we shall find these at Vienna. The cold, however, is so severe just now that I think we cannot start before the beginning of April.

It would gratify you and Lady Palk could you both witness the signs of regret which all who know your son show at his impending departure, and could you realize how greatly he is esteemed. His progress in French has been marked since Mr. Spencer left ; and I can promise that before he returns to England he will be able to speak, if not like Mr. Spencer without accent, at any rate sufficiently well for an ambassador, the standard generally aimed at by young Englishmen.

As you direct our journey towards Vienna, I suppose you have given up the idea of including Italy in our tour. I should like to know what you propose, so that I may be able to refresh my knowledge of Italian. Please intimate to Lady Palk the pleasure I feel at hearing of your younger daughter's convalescence.

" F. D'IVERNIS."

Since our departure from London to the 9th March we have received the following :—

	<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>
From Mr. Beeke, London, for expenses in England,		
66 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> sterling . . . . .	1,590	6
„ Mr. Beeke, on our arrival at Calais, 75 guineas	1,904	
„ Sir J. Lambert, 21st July, 200 <i>l.</i> sterling in		
notes . . . . .	4,966	
„ Mr. Beeke at Neuchâtel . . . . .	72	
„ Messrs. Pourtales, in August, 98 louis for 100 <i>l.</i>		
sterling . . . . .	2,352	
„ Mr. Beeke at St. Gall and Constance . . . . .	600	
„ Mr. Beeke at Berne, a note for 1,000 livres,		
which realized only . . . . .	972	
„ Messrs. Pourtales, 26th September, 150 louis	3,600	

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Carried over 16,056 6

	<i>L</i>	<i>s.</i>
Brought over	16,056	6
From Messrs. Pourtales, 8th Oct. to 31st Jan., seven payments of 50 louis each . . . . .	8,400	
„ Messrs. Pourtales, 28th February, 100 louis	2,400	
	<hr/>	
	<i>L</i> 26,856	6 <i>s.</i>

[*Holograph, French, 3 pp., 4to. Wax seal bearing arms.*]

[No. 430.]

[GEORGE BAKER] to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1786, March 12th, Fort St. George. Received 26th August.—  
“It is now about two months since that a report of Tippoo Sultan’s death was first reported and generally credited here. It continued in this state for about a fortnight, then became doubtfull or disputed, and continues so to the present hour. It would gratifye my curiosity if I could but know what our Government say on that subject to the Company by this dispatch, for hitherto they appear to have been as ignorant of the truth as I am. But whether Tippoo be dead or alive, we are, thank God, in peace. Report[s] of the Maralintas’ and Nizam’s joynt hostile intentions against Tippoo’s co[u]ntry are very prevalent. . . . Harvest in the Carnatick, now gathering in, is, compared to the few cultivators of the land, very plentifull, and the great quantityes of various kinds of grain brought by sea from the northward has brought the respective prices thereof down as low as I have at any time heretofore known it.

“You undoubtedly know that a cantonment was (before the Assignment of the Carnatick was yielded up) fixed on, and barracks preparing for about twelve thousand men at or near Sheveram, a small village in the road from Canjeveram to Chingleput, and at about the distance of eight or ten miles from the former place. The site of this cantonment is, for by far the greater part, within the boundary, but on the very verge, of the Companye’s Jaghire : and in order to compleat the plan thereof to its necessary extent and in the precise situation that was deemed most eligible, it has been made to extend in one or more particular parts for a very little space and distance into the Nabob’s country—a circumstance that either gave his Highness umbrage, or that he did not at least approve of. This then became a subject of conference or discussion between his Highness and our Government, which terminated about a week since in the following manner, vizt. : The Nabob, his son the Ameer, Mr. Davidson our present Governor, and General Dalling went to the spot, where and when the former party formally yielded up to the Company that part of its domain which fell within the limits of the cantonment on their receiving from the Company as a compensation for the same such a portion of the Jaghire as was deemed equivalent thereto. This done,

his Highness the Nabob, either at the desire or with the approbation of our Governor and General, gave the place his name of Wahlajah,<sup>(1)</sup> which when announced to the publick by a salute of twenty-one guns, all partys returned to their respective places of residence.

“Thus far was wrote on the 12th. I had more to say, but was through indisposition obliged to stop, and thus conclude on the 16th.”

[5 pp., 4to. *Unsigned, but endorsed in Sir R. Palk's hand*]  
 “From Capt. Baker.”

## [No. 431.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, March 15th, Trichinapoly. Received 26th August.—  
 “The Nizam and Marattoes have actually taken the field with a view of attacking Tippoo, who is not dead, as was the general belief for two months, and is very busy disciplining his troops and bringing them together. From hence you may infer that we keep ourselves exceeding ignorant of what passes beyond even the walls of Madras, which is truly the case, so indolent and inactive we are. I cannot penetrate Tippoo's real design by feigning himself dead and keeping the gates of Seringapatam shut for so long a time, which we know beyond a doubt to have happened, at a time that his brother and chief officers are so disaffected to him, and his country threatened with invasion, unless the report of the intentions of those powers be not true, and so draw us into a scrape by supposing we would put in our claims in the participation of his country, which (fortunately perhaps) our situation has forbid, were the present a more enterprizing Government than it is.

“Every one is dissatisfied, and looking out with the most painful anxiety [for] the speedy arrival of Governor Campbell. . . .”

“THO. PALK.”

[*Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to.*]

## [No. 432.]

MESSRS. PELLING & DE FRIES to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1786, March 18th, Fort St. George. Received 26th August.  
 “General Campbell is not arrived yet. We want much an able Governor: our present Administration is but a feeble one. Mr. Floyer was taken in to fill the place of Mr. Daniell, who is returned to Europe. Storms brewing around us. A formidable army of the Marattas, aided by most of their principal chiefs, together with the Nizam's army have crossed the Kistna and invaded Tippoo's country. It is the general opinion that they will not be satisfied with money only, but intend recovering

(1) Walajahabad in the Chingleput District on the river Pālār. Its cantonment, established in 1786, was abandoned as unhealthy in 1860.



the countries taken by Hyder from the Marattas, Nizam and the Patan Nabobs. Tippoo has a very considerable force, but from his tyrannical disposition don't stand so well in the affection of his subjects as old Hyder did, whose political abilities were infinitely superior. The frontiers and confines of the Carnatick will be filled with armed troops, and although we have nothing to apprehend directly with the present quarrel with these Indian Powers, yet in their consequences may affect us if proper care is not taken by wise and skilful negociation to preserve our neutrality and our rights unaffected. There was no truth in the reports of Tippoo's death.

"The Nabob has paid regularly his first and second kists, amounting to nine lacks of pagodas, and yet no dividend made to his private creditors. A notice from the Government came forth on the 14th instant that a dividend of one lack and [a] half of pagodas will be made on the 1st April, and we are told that the Company is to have a share of this trifling sum, the Government here construing that the dividend is to be made only annually at the end of every year after the 12 lacks of pagodas are received. This is a great hardship on the creditors, and we don't know how to help ourselves but by a reference to Europe. . . .

"The Bengal Government has afforded great assistance to this Presidency in money, etc., and have taken upon them entirely to pay the King's troops on this coast; but we apprehend these great aids have not been made properly use of. The arrears of the army still unadjusted. Mr. Sadleir and Hodges<sup>(1)</sup> are removed from Masulipatam. . . .

"The Court of Directors have sent out orders under date 15th September last<sup>(2)</sup> for liquidating their bond debts in India with bills of exchange to be granted on them. The exchange for Madras and Bombay is left to the Bengal Government to fix upon, which is not done yet. Unfavourable as this remittance will be, for it will take up near fifteen years before the bills can all be cleared on the footing they are granted, yet it will be of great service, as numbers may avail of this mode of realising in preference to keeping their bonds in India without any prospect of payment, the Company's credit in India being very low indeed. Bills granted by this Presidency on that of Bengal are discounted at 30 per cent., and Company's bonds 35 to 40."

[3 pp., 4to.]

"PELLING & DE FRIES."

[No. 433.]

THO[MA]S PELLING to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1786, March 18th, Madras. Received 26th August.—"I now take the liberty to recommend to your notice two of my grand-

(1) James Hodges. *Vide* No. 251, p. 248, note 1.

(2) Among the Palk MSS. is a copy of "Court's Orders to Bengal, dated 15th Sept., 1785, respecting the liquidation of the Company's debts in India" (1½p. fsep.). This paper was perhaps enclosed in Pelling & de Fries' letter.

children (at present in England under the guardianship of Mr. Daniel De Castro<sup>(1)</sup>), the sons of poor Gibson,<sup>(2)</sup> whom you knew. He dying insolvent and in their infancy, the care of maintaining and educating them fell to my lot. The humanity of Governor Hastings was such as to admit these children minor cadets on the Bengal establishment, and who enjoyed the Company's indulgence until they arrived at the age of fourteen years, when they were to appear, or to be struck out of the list of cadets by a military regulation of Sir Eyre Coote's. To have had them come out to India at that age, their little education would be lost. I therefore requested of Mr. De Castro to continue them in England until the year 1788, when the eldest boy will be eighteen and the youngest seventeen years old. As it is my intention and wish that these lads should make their first appearance in the world in the military line on the Bengal establishment, your prevalent and kind assistance will be wanted my dear Sir. . . .

"Your nephew Mr. Palk and wife are well at Trichin[o]polly. Their family was increased last year with another son. Young Robert is a charming boy. My daughter Gibson takes the liberty to join her daughters in most respectful compliments to your good self and lady."

"THOS. PELLING."

[Holograph, 2 pp., flsep.]

[No. 434.]

THO[MA]S ABRAHAM to SIR R[OBERT] PALK, Bart.

1786, March 24th, Calcutta. Received 8th October.—"I should imagine this Government will incur the displeasure of the Board of Controul when they find out what little attention has been paid to the late Act of Parliament in general, but particularly those parts of it relative to giving away all appointments according to *seniority in the service*, which has scarce been attended to in any one instance, as the number of memorials that are gone home to the Court of Directors on the subject will evince . . . It is a Scotch Government, and very few but Scotchmen get anything . . .

"Amongst the number of expedients lately thought of to alleviate in some measure the present public distress for want of money there has been one lately suggested, and I think seems to be approved, which is to establish a bank under the denomination of 'the General Bank of India' (a small one we had before<sup>(3)</sup>) to consist of 100 subscribers, and also meant to extend to the other Presidencies in the following proportion :—

<sup>(1)</sup> The De Castros were Hebrew merchants of Madras. In the Fort St. George records mention is made of Samuel De Castro in 1749, of Daniel De Castro in 1763 and of Moses De Castro in 1766.

<sup>(2)</sup> Captain Thomas Gibson married Elizabeth Pelling at Madras in 1766.

<sup>(3)</sup> Established by Hastings in 1773, but abolished by the new Council of the Governor General.

Bengal, 75 subscribers, Madras, 15, Bombay, 10, at 20,000 rupees each, making a capital of Rupees 20,00,000, equal to about 200,000*l.* sterling. If the subscription is filled up, it is likely to turn out a very advantageous institution, not only to the proprietors of it, but the public in general, by lowering the present enormous discount on Company's paper, etc., and of course making money more current in Calcutta . . ."

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

"THOS. ABRAHAM."

[No. 435.]

[LAWRENCE PALK] to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street.

1786, April 10th, Constance.—"My dear Father,—We quitted last Thursday with great regret our abode at Neuchâtel. For my own part I resembled very much the *knight of the sorrowful countenance* . . . Among the different people to whom I am most particularly obliged for their kindnesses and attentions there is no one who more deserves my thanks than Mr. Beaufoy and his amiable wife . . . Their house was the resort of the best company; and by being often admitted to their society I have in great part got rid of that shyness which you have so often and so justly found fault with. I trust in time I shall intirely shake off this *failing*.

"Our rout has been retarded by the breaking down of our carriage twice. . . . Mr. D'Ivernois having expressed a desire to remain here one day to see his brothers in exile, whom the Emperor has permitted to establish their manufactories in this town, gives me this opportunity of writing to you. The Colony succeeds even beyond their expectations, and it is to be expected that this once flourishing city will soon regain its ancient opulence and splendour. Their manufactories consist in watches and enamel, which the Emperor admits into his territories subject to very small duties. The number of Genevans who have voluntarily expatriated themselves amounts at present to nearly 200 . . . The tyranny of the aristocrats ever since the late revolution, and the means they employ to oppress the natives have rendered Geneva disgusting to its inhabitants. . . . The Emperor does every thing in his power to favour this rising colony: to many particulars he has given places of abode for themselves and their families, and to all a free exercise of their religion and the permission of forming their own laws.

"Tomorrow we set out for Vienna through Munich, where perhaps we may find a boat which will conduct us and our equipage, by descending the Danube, to that capital of Austria. . . . I do not yet give up all hopes of meeting with my friend Lord Wycombe at Vienna. Perhaps he stays there to accompany the Emperor to Chinon, where the Emperess of Russia means shortly to hold her Coronation.



“ Your account of my sister’s marriage gives me real pleasure. Every person speaks well of Sir Bouchier,<sup>(1)</sup> and thinks that he will make one of the best of husbands . . . You give me but a very middling account of my poor Emelia . . .

“ I forgot to send you in my last letter a copy of the will of a Mr. Des Plans,<sup>(2)</sup> late Lieutenant Colonel in the service of the East India Company. His sister, who has been particularly kind to me, desired me to recommend her case to your notice, that if you had any acquaintance at Bengal, you would be kind enough to endeavour to procure her that justice which has been so often denied her. You are no doubt acquainted with the parties concerned. One of them, Mr. Bonjour,<sup>(3)</sup> enquired very kindly after your health, and said that if I mentioned his name to you, he was certain you would recollect him . . .”

[Signature removed].

[Holograph, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to. Wax seal bearing crest and monogram.]

[Enclosures.]

No. 1. N.D.—*Copy of the Will of Lieut.-Colonel Des Plans.*

I, Jean Des Plans, Lieut.-Colonel in the service of the English East India Company, declare this my last will to be as follows :—I give to my friend Elizabeth, whom I took under my protection, and who is in fact under the care of the Rev. Mr. Fabricius,<sup>(4)</sup> Pags. 400, which sum is actually in the hands of Mr. Fabricius. Besides this I give her Pags. 200. I bequeath the rest of my property to my wife Maria Victoriana Des Plans and my daughters Henriette and Ursule Des Plans in equal portions. In the event of the death of my wife and daughters, my property is to go to my sister Marie Elizabeth of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, excepting Pags. 1,000, of which one half is to be added to the little fortune of my friend Elizabeth, and the other half is to go to my wife’s two sisters Michaela and Charlotte.

I appoint the Rev. Mr. Fabricius and Lieut.-Colonel Abraham Bonjour my executors. I give to Mr. Fabricius my silver table-service and my silver bowl and ladle. My horses I give to Colonel Bonjour.

(Signed) Jean Des Plans, Lieut.-Colonel.

[French, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  p., 8vo.]

No. 2. N.D.—*Unsigned Memorandum respecting the Will of Lieut.-Colonel Des Plans.*

Lieut.-Colonel Des Plans, who died at Madras in 1772, left his fortune by his will, which is deposited in the India House, London, to his wife and two daughters. Failing these, he named

(1) Sir Bouchier Wrey, 6th Baronet, married Anne Palk, 14th March, 1786. She died in 1791.

(2) Colonel Des Plans, of the Company’s European Infantry, was an Ensign in 1758, and served as Captain in the Manila expedition.

(3) Colonel Abraham Bonjour. *Vide* No. 30, p. 50, note 2.

(4) The Rev. John Philip Fabricius was sent to India by the S.P.C.K. in 1740 as a missionary. He officiated at Clive’s marriage in 1753, and ultimately died at Madras in 1791.

his sister Marie Elizabeth, of Neuchâtel, as heiress. Consequently the property remained in the hands of the Rev. Mr. Fabricius, who was named executor jointly with Lieut.-Colonel Bonjour. The two children died in the same year as their father. Their mother married a M. Pignon, and died in 1776 without obtaining possession of the property, of which she was granted only the income. After her death Pignon claimed the property as her heir, and in 1777 he brought a suit in the Mayor's Court of Madras which was decided in his favour in 1780. The executor appealed to Government against the decision, and I have heard nothing further of the matter.

[*French*, 2 pp., 8vo.]

[No. 436.]

[F. D'IVERNOIS to SIR ROBERT PALK.]

1786, April 22nd, Vienna.—Now that we are 200 leagues from Neuchâtel I can, without alarming you, give the true reason for my long-standing wish to see your son away from that place. . . . Soon after his arrival there he was attracted by a young lady of irreproachable character. Within a month the budding preference became so marked as to cause me some disquiet. I heard that the young lady's parents were building hopes for the future on the attachment, although Palk had spoken plainly of the impossibility of his marrying outside his own country. This disturbed me, and I begged you, Sir, to prepare him for departure . . .

Now, Sir, you have the key to all Palk's delays. Perhaps you may blame me for not keeping you informed, but I was unwilling to alarm you needlessly . . . It is unnecessary to say that the young lady was as much in love as he was. I could not save Palk from final heart-rending interviews; but he made no promise except that he would pay another visit to Neuchâtel when he could. He was rather depressed during the first few days of our journey, but soon brightened up. He assured me yesterday that he had never been so happy as during the last six months—and he might have added *nor so prudent*, for his whole behaviour shows that he can unite the sensibility of a young man with the reserve of a man of experience who knows the value of honour too well to offer anything which can be construed as a promise . . .

We left Neuchâtel on the 5th instant after settling our bills and drawing the amount of your last credit on Messrs. Pourtales. When we started there remained only *L*5,676 6s., which we took with us in cash and letters of credit. Our expenses were certainly high, considering the habits of the people among whom we lived. I several times discussed this point with your son. Though it would be unfair to charge him with extravagance, he is certainly inclined to be careless in business matters . . .

[*The remainder of the letter is missing*.]

[*Holograph, French*, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 437.]

[LAWRENCE PALK] to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., M.P.,  
Bruton Street.

1786, May 21st, Vienna. Received 2nd June.—“My dear Father,—The Court having accompanied the Emperor to Luxembourg, Vienna is become quite empty and consequently dull; therefore I think the sooner I quit it the better . . . Mr. D'Ivernois seems to be of the same opinion with me, and only waits to hear your intentions upon the subject, and the receipt of that letter relating to our tour which you informed me Lord Lansdown was about to send him. The only houses into which I am now admitted are those of Prince Kaunitz<sup>(1)</sup> and the Russian Ambassador's. The former is opened every evening, and I must own that I have taken so great a liking to its owner, who is reckoned the Oracle of Vienna, that I scarcely ever miss. The only thing however to be gained by this constant attendance is the *ton* and manners of a man of the world: as for politics, you never hear talk of them, and I believe the Emperor has enjoined silence upon every one of his Ministers. Your letter to Madame la Comtesse de Thun was of particular use to me, as she is the only lady who admits the English constantly into her house . . . She was made choice of by the Emperor to accompany him to Luxembourg.”

I am very disturbed about Emelia's health and anxiously await news.

[Signature removed.]

[P.S.]—“Monsr. D'Ivernois . . . desires you will be kind enough to beg Mr. Dumont, who is at present at Lord Lansdown's, to send us without delay at Berlin the letter of introduction for the Count de Goertz which he had the goodness to promise us.”

[Holograph, 3¼ pp., 4to. Wax seal.]

[No. 438.]

[LAWRENCE PALK] to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., M.P.,  
Bruton Street.

1786, June 3rd, Vienna.—“My dear Father,—Your observations are very just, and I really remained in Switzerland longer than I ought to have done . . . I informed you of the loss of Mr. Cleveland's introductory letter to Madame de Prangin . . . This is the sole reason that deprived me of the pleasure of paying my compliments to her during my residence at Neuchatel. Vienna has been for the last week remarkably dull owing to the departure of most of the nobility for their country seats, and particularly those who kept open house for strangers; during which time we have visited every thing that is curious, which consist only in some very fine

(1) Prince Kaunitz, “shining star and guide of Austrian policies,” represented Austria at the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, when he was 37 years of age.



edifices, the Treasury and the Arsenal. The Treasury is remarkably rich, and contains the jewels, etc., which have been collected from every part of the dominions belonging to the house of Austria . . .

"The Arsenal is a very large pile of buildings, and contains arms for upwards [of] 350,000 men. They show you the jacket which Gustavus Adolphus wore when he was treacherously murdered at the battle of Lutzen, which was afterwards gained by the Imperialists, and the chains which the Tures had brought with them to lead the then Emperour in captivity to Constantinople . . ."

[*Signature removed.*]

[*Holograph, 3½ pp., 4to. Wax seal.*]

[No. 439.]

F. D'IVERNOS to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., M.P., Bruton Street.

1786, June 10th, Feslau, near Vienna.—About a week ago we told you of a little expedition we were about to make into Hungary. Our three-day visit enabled us to form an idea of the inexhaustible fertility of that kingdom. We are now staying with the Countess de Friez, four leagues from Vienna. Your son would like to prolong the visit, but an engagement to dine with Prince Kaunitz obliges us to leave to-morrow. Our departure from Vienna is fixed for the 16th. We should have started even earlier but for the festival of Corpus Christi and the installation of the Bishop of Liege.

Palk is as ready to leave Vienna as he was reluctant to say good-bye to Neuchâtel . . . Our business will end with Paris now that he is familiar with its language. Though I have no reason to be partial to Frenchmen, the more I travel among continental people the more convinced I am that the French are the most interesting for a young foreigner to cultivate. The advantages and dangers of the capital depend on the society with which he mixes, and . . . it would be well for you to provide us with some good letters of introduction.

I hope that Madame de Friez will give us a letter to the Austrian Ambassador at Berlin. This, with the one I expect from my friend Dumont to Count de Goertz, will suffice us for that capital. We expect to be there by the end of the month, halting only at Dresden and Prague. Through the Chevalier Keith<sup>(1)</sup> your son has just drawn on you for £250 sterling in bills of exchange.

[*Signature removed.*]

[*Holograph, French, 3½ pp., 4to. Wax seal with monogram.*]

(1) Vide No. 441, p. 403, note 1.

[No. 440.]

LAWRENCE PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, June 26th, Dresden. Received 19th July. "My dear Father,—My last letter . . . made you acquainted with my intended tour through a small but interesting part of Hungary in company with a very agreeable party of my English friends. After having travelled for the space of about ten German miles through a beautiful and well cultivated country we arrived at Esterhazi, the seat of the Prince of that name. The flattering accounts I had heard of it from every quarter made me anxious to be myself a spectator of its beauties. I am sorry to say, however, my expectations were very much disappointed. The *Palais*, though large, contains nothing which deserves the title of real magnificence, and out of nearly two hundred rooms there are only two that are above the usual size. The gardens, on the contrary, are in general very prettily laid out and pleasantly interspersed with grottos, hermitages, temples, etc., etc. One building in particular (which is called the Belvidere) attracted our notice not only for its elegance and simplicity but also for its novelty, being entirely different from the German taste, who admires nothing but what is entirely covered with gilding and awkward ornaments . . . The present Prince has continually about his person a guard of two hundred men collected from amongst his tenants, dressed in magnificent uniforms, and as many more inhabit the other country seats. Two companies of players, the one Italian, the other German, perform alternately in a new and very beautiful theatre . . . Every stranger has the permission to enter, even without having been presented to the Prince, who very seldom shows himself and lives here quite a retired life . . .

"From Esterhazi we proceeded as far as Presburg, the capital of Hungary, a very ugly, ill-built town situated upon the Danube, over which you pass by a flying bridge. The town, since the Duke of Saxe Teschen has removed his residence to Brussels, has fallen into decay. The castle is a very large and rather beautiful building inhabited by nearly six hundred young men, all of the country, who are there bred up for the church. They received us very politely and showed us every curiosity they possessed. We saw the window from which the late Empress Queen<sup>(1)</sup> addressed the people in a most pathetic speech, holding in her arms the present Emperour,<sup>(2)</sup> then a child of scarcely a year old, imploring their assistance to extricate her from those calamities which her numerous enemies heaped upon her. Her faithful Hungarians, softened by this spectacle, swore to sacrifice the last drop of their blood in her and her son's defence; but little did they think at that time that the child would one day prove their greatest oppressor, and make slaves of those

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(1) Maria Theresa, widow of Francis I.

(2) Joseph II. (1765—1790).

people, to whom he not only owed his life but his crown, by overthrowing their rights and liberties, which he had religiously promised to maintain.

“We talk of setting off tomorrow or the day after for Berlin through Leipsig. . . . You are now thinking, I suppose, of going into Devonshire, the Parliament being nearly at an end. . . .”

“LAWRENCE PALK.”

[*Holograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 441.]

MESSRS. PELLING & DE FRIES & Co. to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.,  
Bruton Street, London.

1786, June 26th, Fort St. George.—“This serves chiefly to inform that we have lately received two dividends on account of the Nabob’s old consolidated debt. The bond to General Lawrence amounted . . . to Pagodas 5,782 25*f.* 16*c.* . . . The Nabob has kept up his payments in a surprising manner, having compleated them before the kists became due. . . . If the present regulation for discharging the Nabob’s debt be continued unaltered, the old debt will be entirely paid off in less than three years.

“We are in perfect tranquillity. Tippoo and the Marattas are fighting out their quarrels amongst themselves. The Nizam took the field with the Marattas, but soon returned to his own capital of Hyderabad.

“Your nephew Tom is doing very well at Trichinopoly . . . We hope you have recommended him to Sir Archibald Campbell, as it will always have due weight. The higher a person rises in the service, the more necessary it is that he should have interest with those in power.

“The Company’s credit is greatly restored since the orders sent out by the Court of Directors to grant bills on them in discharge for Company’s bonds and other papers, although the Supreme Council has not determined the exchange of bills for this Presidency.”

“PELLING & DE FRIES & Co.”

[2 pp., 4to. *Wax seal with monogram.*]

[No. 442.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, July 2nd, Trichinapoly.—I send you a first Bill of Exchange for 2,062*l.* 10*s.*, payable six months after sight. My remittances to you to this date have aggregated 13,724*l.* 10*s.* This sum I hope to increase to 20,000*l.* through the supercargoes of Canton. As soon as the whole is realized, I propose to follow it home.

“Mrs. Palk is exceedingly desirous of seeing her unknown



relations, and so am I of her seeing England before it be too late for her to benefit any thing by the change . . .

"Sir A. Campbell arrived in *good time*, and promises to make a very good Governor; so the general voice says. Boards of Commerce and Revenue are established, and the Army increased and brigaded . . . The Morattoes are still at war with Tippoo, but not carried on with that vigour which it is our interest to wish should be. The former show some degree of determination to carry their point by keeping south of the Kistnah, and Tippoo by negotiation is trying to gain his. The French, as well as ourselves, are lookers on. Pondicherry is still an open town, except a barrier which has been thrown up around it, and seems calculated for a defence against cavalry only. . . ."

"THO. PALK."

[*Holograph, 2¼ pp., large 4to.*]

[No. 443.]

The REV. J. BRADFORD to [SIR ROBERT PALK.]

1786, July 4th, Ideford.—"My second son, just turned of sixteen, has been educated chiefly at Mr. Crawford's Academy at Newington. He understands French and all sorts of accounts, writes an exceeding good hand, and is, I flatter myself, perfectly free from vice, and of a compliable, steady, sober disposition . . .

"I had at first thoughts of putting him into trade, but find upon enquiry that the premiums they expect in any reputable shop are not less than four or five hundred pounds. This is so far beyond my finances . . . that I must decline all thoughts of it, and am sorry to be under the necessity of being troublesome to my friends. If, my dear Sir, you would oblige me so far as to put me in a method of getting the lad a clerkship in any public office or reputable banking house, . . . I would willingly advance 200*l.* if required, and think myself under the greatest obligation to you.

"I beg leave to congratulate you and Lady Palk on the marriage of your daughter. I had lately the pleasure of meeting Sir Bou[r]chier Wrey at Star Cross, when he told me Miss Palk was much recovered, which we are most sincerely glad to hear. . . ."

"J. BRADFORD."

[*Holograph, 2½ pp., 4to.*]

[No. 444.]

LAWRENCE PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., M.P., Bruton Street.

1786, July 6th, Berlin.—Had your last letters to Vienna been addressed to Leipzig, "we could have profited of Lord Lansdown[s]'s kindness, and have been introduced to the Prince Anhalt Dessau,<sup>(1)</sup> whose place we have visited and admired.

(1) Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau, "the Old Dessauer."

It is really the best copy of an English park and garden I ever beheld . . . There are few seats in England more beautiful than Dessau.

"Nothing, I can assure you, made me regret Vienna more than the Prince Kaunitz. He ever treated me with particular attention and affability, and at the same time that I admire him as being one of the greatest politicians and the best of men, his politeness and kindnesses to me have gained him my esteem . . . Sir Robert Keith<sup>(1)</sup> too merits the esteem of every Englishman, nor is there a minister upon the continent who takes more pains . . . to introduce his countrymen into the best society.

"Tomorrow we intend to deliver our letters of recommendation to Lord Dalrymple<sup>(2)</sup> and the Prince de Reuss,<sup>(3)</sup> the Imperial Ambassador. The King of Prussia<sup>(4)</sup> still continues in a very alarming situation, and it is the general opinion that he will not live out the winter. . . . Our stay at this place will be about a month, . . . but as we are informed the King will not permit any strangers to pay their court to him, and as most of the fash[i]onable world have quitted the capital, perhaps we shall remain here but half that time.

"Your accounts of my dear mother as well as of Emelia have given me the greatest pleasure, and I trust her new physician will soon operate a complete cure. . . ."

"LAWRENCE PALK."

[*Holograph, 3½ pp., 4to. Wax seal.*]

[No. 445.]

THO[MAS] PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., Bruton Street.

1786, July 8th, Trichinapoly.—Encloses a first bill of exchange for 1,031*l.* 5*s.*

[*Holograph, ½ p., 4to. Wax seal inscribed 'Thomas Palk' in Persian characters.*]

[No. 446.]

LAWRENCE PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., M.P., Bruton Street.

1786, July 10th, Berlin.—"Our stay at this place, I apprehend, will be rather shorter than we originally intended, as Lord Dalrymple informs us that most of the *beau monde* have retired from this city, some to Potsdam, but most of them to their country houses. . . . Tomorrow we are to be presented to the Queen and some of the Princes. The King, not being entirely

(1) Sir Robert Murray Keith, British Ambassador since 1772 at Vienna, where his father had formerly served in the same capacity.

(2) John, Lord Dalrymple, afterwards Earl of Stair, British Ambassador to Prussia.

(3) Every member of both branches of the Reuss family was called Henry, with a distinctive but confusing numeral attached to the name.

(4) Frederick the Great.

recovered from his late indisposition, does not as yet show himself at Court, and remains at Potsdam with a chosen party of his Generals. People say here that he is pretty well, as he gallops on horseback for two German miles; but this circumstance in my opinion proves better the strength and health of his steed than of his own. . . .”

“I hope Emelia’s speedy recovery will soon permit you to visit Haldon. . . . The late acquisition you have made will certainly render it, if possible, more beautiful and more compact than ever. The most earnest of my wishes is that you may long live to admire its beauties. . . .”

“LAWRENCE PALK.”

[*Holograph, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pp., 4to. Wax seal.*]

[No. 447.]

LAWRENCE PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., M.P., Bruton Street.

1786, July 21st, Berlin. Received 2nd August.—“At our return from Potsdam last Wednesday, where we had been invited to dine with the Prince of Prussia,<sup>(1)</sup> we received your last favour of the 4th instant, inclosing a letter of credit, . . . for which we return you our most sincere thanks, particularly so as the money we took up at Vienna is now entirely expended. . . .

“You say in your last kind letter, ‘My inducement to send my son abroad was to supply the want of study at home, to teach him to be a good citizen, and that *qui mores hominum multorum vidit et urbes* might make his own remarks, adopt the good and avoid what was otherwise.’ During my travels on the Continent my time has been principally employed in reading the histories of the several States I have passed through, in acquainting myself with the different objects of commerce, and of their different manner of government. These have been my principal studies, and if I have not succeeded in my attempts, the fault ought rather to be imputed to the badness of my memory than to my want of application . . .

“Berlin is at present remarkably dull, most of its inhabitants having retired to their country seats, or to Potsdam, where the alarming indisposition of the King calls for their almost constant attendance. It is generally feared that he will not survive the winter. His legs are swelled in such a manner as to prevent his walking without the assistance of his servants even from one chamber to another. He has not, however, lost his accustomed cheerfulness, but dines every day in company with a chosen party of his generals . . . Great expectations are formed of the abilities of his successor, the Prince of Prussia, and the generallity of people imagine that the kingdom will be in the same flourishing condition during his administration as it has

:(1) The Crown Prince, shortly to become Frederick William II.



been during that of his uncle. Be this as it may, the death of the present king cannot but cause great disturbance and be sincerely felt in every part of the kingdom. The Emperour has his eyes continually fixed on Silesia, keeps his troupes in readiness, and waits only for that event to attempt the conquest of that province, which has been so unjustly ravished from him. The Prussian army, is however, on a very good footing, commanded by excellent and very expert generals . . . But if the Prince of Prussia does not, upon his coming to the throne, augment the pay of his soldiers, and relax in some measure the severity of their discipline, it is feared that nearly half his army will desert upon the first breaking out of a war. The soldiers complain very much, and honestly confess, even to their own officers, that they only wait for a good opportunity to quit their present masters.

“ We intend setting off the day after tomorrow for Brunswic and Hanover. After having been presented to the Duke of York we shall proceed to Dusseldorf, from whence we shall descend the Rhine to Wesel, where I hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you. We expect to be there in about six weeks. If you do not think your letters can arrive there by that time, I shall be obliged to you to direct them to Amsterdam . . . ”

“ LAWRENCE PALK.”

[*Holograph*, 3½ pp., 4to. *Wax seal*.]

[No. 448.]

F. D'IVERNOIS to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, July 30th, Brunswick. Received 17th August. — We arrived here yesterday, and have already been received by the Duchess, sister of the King of England, with the greatest affability . . . Your son felt that he deserved your little lecture on economy, and was anxious to reduce his expenditure, which, though considerable, could not be called extravagant. Part of it was due to beneficence : in other cases he was duped by the false prejudices which most young Englishmen bring to the Continent. But he is rapidly curing himself of them, and our expenses are certainly less than at Neuchâtel, where no display was called for. Moreover, rapid travelling and brief halts, such as we have had in Germany, involve increased cost. At Vienna we spent nearly 250*l.* in two months, but it was less than Mr. Spencer's expenditure, and much below that of Mr. Duntz, who got through 100*l.* in one month all by himself.

Still, I am glad that you have read your son a homily, and I shall be happy if you will say a further word on the subject when we reach Paris, where opportunities of spending will be both numerous and tempting. I shall send you a detailed statement of account from Cassel, where we are to attend the

ceremony, with which Lord Dalrymple is charged, of investing the Landgrave of Hesse with the Garter.

“ F. D’IVERNOIS.”

[*Holograph, French, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 449.]

THE REV. SAMUEL BADCOCK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, August 1st, West Sandford.—“ I have taken the liberty of transmitting to you a paper, which, if it meets with your approbation, I should be glad to see published in the *Gentleman’s Magazine*. I flatter myself that I have expressed myself at the conclusion in a manner sufficiently delicate not to give you offence. I wished to have given wider scope to my gratitude, but was restrained by the sense of that very liberality to which I found myself under such great obligations. If you approve of this paper and will permit it, I will communicate to the Editor some farther account of the MSS. which you have entrusted with me. But I will not move a step without your permission.

“ I had drawn up a catalogue, with some general account of the contents of the several papers, before I had the honour of writing to you an account of the progress I had made. Since that I have heard of a very curious MS. in Mr. Coffin’s library,<sup>(1)</sup> entitled *Hooker’s Survey*. I believe it is the only one now existing, and I wish to procure a sight of it, that I may extract from it whatever is curious to be added to your collection. I doubt not but Mr. Coffin would very readily permit it if the favour were asked him either by yourself or Sir John Chichester . . .”

“ SAMUEL BADCOCK.”

[*Holograph, 2 pp., flesc.*]

[No. 450.]

THO[MA]S PELLING to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bt.

1786, August 2nd [Madras].—Encloses duplicate of his letter of the 18th March, 1786, and announces that the natural sons of Mr. Barclay<sup>(2)</sup> and Colonel Kelly<sup>(3)</sup> have arrived in India with commissions as ensign.

[*Holograph, ½ p., 4to.*]

[No. 451.]

F. D’IVERNOIS to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, August 9th, Pyrmont, near Hanover. Received 23rd August.—Since I wrote from Brunswick we have visited Hanover. We were there presented to the Duke of York, who honoured us with an invitation to dinner. Leaving

(1) The library at Portledge, near Bideford.

(2) Robert Barclay. *Vide* No. 390, p. 364, note 3.

(3) Robert Kelly. *Vide* No. 78, p. 106, note 5.

Hanover for Cassel, we made a circuit by Pymont, where the German society of the vicinity had assembled to take advantage of the mineral springs. We expected to meet here the ruling Duke of Courland and his Duchess, whose acquaintance we had made at the residence of the Crown Prince of Prussia. This is the second day of our stay, and as we have no need of the cure, thank heaven, we shall make for Cassel very shortly. That place is not likely to offer attractions, as the Court is in retreat. We shall go a little out of our way to visit Göttingen, get a glimpse of its celebrated university, and be presented to the young Princes, as General Grenville has been good enough to give us a letter to their Governor.

From Cassel there are two routes to Holland open to us ; one to Wesel through Westphalia, which is direct but devoid of interest ; the other, double the distance but much more attractive, by Frankfort and the Rhine. We shall probably adopt the latter, as it will enable us to see Coblentz, Cologne, Düsseldorf, etc. This route will take us a fortnight or more . . . Allowing from two to three weeks to reach Wesel and two more for passing through Holland, we ought to be at the end of our travels by the middle of September. This is rather earlier than you expected, and is the result of our having visited the capitals at a period when the nobles were out of town. As I believe that the cultivation of good society rather than topographical knowledge is your chief aim for your son, there would have been no advantage in prolonging our halts in Germany.

The question now is whether you wish us to establish ourselves at once in Paris until next February, or whether we should travel a little in France before settling down. As you are aware, Sir, there is one essential difference between the capitals of France and England. The English people can be studied adequately in London ; but to know the French nation it is not enough to reside in Paris. One must penetrate the country . . . Meanwhile I suggest that you should procure for us as many letters of recommendation as possible, for it is chiefly on them that your son must rely for the connections he will form in the capital. A letter to the Ambassador is of little service by itself. . . .

“ F. D’IVERNOIS.”

P.S.—August 11th, Göttingen. We arrived here yesterday, and have already been presented to the three young Princes, who have asked us to supper this evening. We also met Sir Isaac Heard,<sup>(1)</sup> who told us the Cassel ceremony was over. Apparently we have not lost much by our absence from it. What we regret much more is that the letter which you entrusted to him for us has not been delivered. Sir Isaac handed it to Lord Barnard,<sup>(2)</sup> who is taking it to Berlin, where he expects to find us. Palk, though disappointed, is cheered by the good

(1) Sir Isaac Heard, Garter King of Arms.

(2) William Harry Vane, Viscount Barnard, son of the Earl of Darlington.



account of your health which Sir Isaac gives. Your son has had the pleasure of meeting several of his Oxford friends, who all agree that he never looked better . . . By Sir Isaac Heard I am sending you a copy of our accounts from the time we left London. The balance of cash remaining on this date is Crowns 311-23-6, besides 100*l.* of the letter of credit of Sir R. Herries and Co. . . .

[*Holograph, French, 8 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 452.]

HENRY VANSITTART & R[ICHARD]D KENNAWAY to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, August 13th, Calcutta.—“We are very glad your brother and nephew have taken on them the debt of Lieut. Welland to his brother. Our payment of it was a serious object to young Welland’s convenience. We believe Welland has a proper sense of errors, and disposition to reform, which regulates his present conduct ; but his embarrassments from the past we believe are not small, and such as time and oeconomy only in the present situation of this service can entirely remedy . . .

“Tom Palk’s legacy being set off against his debt to the estate ;<sup>(1)</sup> as it is not only for the convenience of the estate but agreeable to his wishes to receive the sum still intended him in England, whither our attention is engaged in remitting the property, we recommend his being indulged with the payment of it there.”

We hope you duly received bills for a lakh of rupees, and also those for our remittance of 8,859*l.* We shall shortly send the accounts of the estate.

“HENRY VANSITTART,  
RD. KENNAWAY.”

[*Autographs, 3½ pp., 4to.*]

[No. 453.]

SIMEON DROZ<sup>(2)</sup> to [GENERAL JOHN CAILLAUD].

1786, August 19th, Arlington Street. “I arrived in England the 6th instant, and landed at Weymouth. From thence I proceeded with my family to Bath, where I left Mrs. Droz very poorly indeed, her nerves being much shook by the fatigues of the voyage, and they were in a very indifferent state before. I had the pleasure of seeing your sister, being well at Bath. I arrived in town last Thursday night, and am comfortably lodged for the present in the same house with John Boileau . . .”

My chief object in writing is to ask you to use your influence with Sir Robert Palk, with whom I am not acquainted. “The case is this :—When I succeeded my late friend Mr. Palk in the chiefship of Cossimbuzar, he proposed that I should take off his hands some concerns in small Filatures or places for making silk,

(1) The estate of Robert Palk, jun.

(2) *Vide* No. 419, p. 384, note 2.

which he possessed in the neighbourhood of the Factory ; and in consequence I gave him at his request a bond for 9,000 Rs., bearing interest at 1 per cent. per annum, and payable in 3 years : but I never received the said Filatures or any smallest advantage from them whatever . . ." Mr. Palk promised to return the bond, but forgot to do so, fell ill, and died on his way home. Messrs. Vansittart & Kennaway afterwards presented the bond for payment. I explained the matter and, in return for the original bond, gave a bond of indemnity to cover them in case Sir Robert Palk and the other executors should insist on payment. I now beg you to interest yourself with Sir Robert on my behalf and secure the return of the bond of indemnity.

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

"SIMEON DROZ."

[No. 454.]

LAWRENCE PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart., M.P.,  
Bruton Street.

1786, August 21st, Wesel. Received 5th September.—

"We arrived here yesterday evening some moments after the express which brought the account of the King of Prussia's death on the 17th instant, and of the her[di]tary Prince's accession to the throne by the name of Frederick William the 2nd. This morning we were at the parade when the troupes comprising this garrison took the oath of fidelity and obedience to their new *souverain*. Notwithstanding the trouble and confusion this event cannot fail of producing in every part of the Prussian territories, it seems here to be the general opinion that the Emperour, actually in Transilvania and far removed from the frontiers of Silesia, will not strike a blow in attempting to regain this part of the possessions anciently belonging to his family . . .

"I this moment receive your kind letter of the 11th inst. . . . Your accounts of my dear mother's health . . . have given me the greatest uneasiness, and make me accept with the sincerest acknowledgements your permission to return to England as soon as possible. Had you not desired me to continue my tour through Holland, I might perhaps have been the *avant-coureur* of this letter. The alarming state of my poor Emelia's health, joined to th[at] of my dear mother, makes me uncom[mon] anxious to join my endeavours to yours in searching a means to render them every consolation in my power.

"Mr. D'Ivernois, whom I have consulted with regard to our proposed tour through Holland, is of opinion it will not take up more than three weeks, at the end of which time I hope to add to the pleasure of embracing that of assuring my dear father by word of mouth how truly and sincerely I am his most dutiful and affectionate son,

"LAWRENCE PALK."

[*Holograph*, 3½ pp., 4to. *Wax seal*.]

[No. 455.]

HENRY VANSITTART jun., to SIR ROBERT PALK.

1786, August 26th, Calcutta. Received — March, 1787.—  
 “I am very much obliged to you for an intimation contained in one of your letters to Kennaway and myself that you would get us recommended to Lord Cornwallis. This I believe will be the last instance of assistance which I shall require from you after the many which I have received, both in fixing me upon this establishment and in promoting my successful progress through this service. Every consideration inclines me to go home next year. I gain very little more than a subsistence, and my situation is rendered every year more disagreeable by the interference of the Government here, the Court of Directors and Parliament . . .

“We expect Lord Cornwallis in a fortnight, and the business of Government is in suspense until his arrival. His appointment may be productive of much good or much harm, and it will not be in the power of the best intentions to prevent the latter, either if his Lordship acts without advice or if he is influenced by bad . . .

“I think we shall be able completely to close our administration of your nephew’s estate this year . . .”

“HENRY VANSITTART.”

[Autograph, 3½ pp., 4to. Duplicate.]

[No. 456.]

MESSRS. PELLING &amp; DE FRIES to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1786, August 29th, Fort St. George.—“The Nabob has regularly completed, even by anticipation, the payment of his annual subsidy of sixteen lacks. The Government has not been quite so regular in making the dividends to his creditors, some part being still unpaid. We shall . . . remit you . . . whatever dividends we may receive on account of the Nabob’s bond to General Lawrence, and for your concern under the late Mr. Morse. The executors of Goodlad have not made any further payment. We do not fail to remind them from time to time, but until money becomes more plenty in the Settlement punctuality will not be observed in dealings.

“Lord Cornwallis arrived here on the 22nd instant after a very short passage, and is to leave this for Bengal the 1st of next month. People’s mind[s] are made easy for the repeal of the obnoxious part of Mr. Pitt’s India Bill. We are peaceable throughout all our possessions in India. Tippoo, the Marattas and Nizam [are] fighting out their own battles. This last has lost the whole of the Adoni country to Tippoo. The rains at present on that side prevent operations in the field, but it is likely to take place with more vigour the next spring.”

“PELLING &amp; DE FRIES.”

[2 pp., 4to. Duplicate.]



[No. 457.]

THO[MAS] PALK to SIR ROBERT PALK.

1786, September 7th, Trich[inopoljy].—"I am happy that so handsome an addition has been made to my poor brother's legacies to my sisters, and thankful for the cancelling of my debt to him, which in that event has been, I hope, . . . carried to my credit in England . . . When all the bills which I have transmitted to you are paid, with the legacy, their amount will be 18,976*l.* [?18,796*l.*] . . .

"You may, my dear Sir, very naturally conclude that I am most anxious to see those dear friends at home once more, and that I am straining every nerve to effect it, but alas! fortunes are not to be made so rapidly now as before the war. People in my situation have never made them by their employs, but by loans of money to the country at, as you know, an high interest; but it is no longer safe to do it on any terms; and the Nabob, since the restitution of the Assignment, has not practised that good old custom. A most cordial understanding exists at present between me and his Highness, and it shall not be my fault should it not continue . . .

"My brother,<sup>(1)</sup> I see, is purchasing away. I hope you will be able to do something of the same sort for me soon. I forgot to tell you, after enumerating the sums I had remitted, that I have Company's paper for Pagodas 60,000, . . . for which I have the bond of the Bengal Government; so that, all things considered, my having been 12 years without any employ, and finding myself much in debt on my coming here, you will not think I have been idle. I hope, however, that by the end of '87 I shall find myself in very comfortable circumstances, and that the January following will enable me to leave India . . .

"I am happy to find Tom is well and improving. When you think him of age to be put to a school at or near London, I shall be much pleased. In January next we intend to send Kitty and Bob by Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Palk's sister; the former in particular to be presented to Lady Palk. She is a sweet child, and will I doubt not be a great favorite. Neither of them as yet have had the smallpox. They will go on the *Manship*, Capt. Gregory . . ."

[*Holograph*, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  pp., 4to.]

"THO. PALK."

[No. 458.]

LAWRENCE PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, September 8th, La Haye.—"We arrived here yesterday in company with the Count de Bourghaus and his family, who were kind enough to offer us a place in their boat from Amsterdam. At my arrival I had the pleasure of receiving the letters you had entrusted to the care of Sir Isaac Heard, amongst

(1) Walter Palk, jun.

which I found a recommendatory one to Sir James Harris.<sup>(1)</sup> I do not suppose it will be of any great use to me, being informed our Ambassador is at present entirely occupied with the Prince of Orange's affairs, which seem to grow every day worse and worse, insomuch that a civil war appears now to be almost inevitable. The States of Holland, who assembled this morning, have come to a resolution almost unanimous, not only to divest him of all his employments, but also of his Statholderat. . . . The King of Prussia has sent one of his principal Ministers, the Count de Gortz (late envoy to the Court of Petersbourg) to endeavour to accomplish a reconciliation between the Prince of Orange and the States; but they seem to be so exasperated against [him] that it is feared this negotiation will turn out unsuccessful.

"I cannot conceive how the Stadholder, united solely with the province of Gueldre, can resist the united efforts of the remaining six, whose troupes are at least five [times] as numerous as those at present under his command, unless his brother in law the King of Prussia makes a diversion in his favour, which in the present position of affairs appears to be very improbable.

"In addition to this piece of news we have received advice of the declaration of war between Russia and the Turks, and that we have sold Gibraltar to the Empress<sup>(2)</sup> for the sum of 2,000,000 pounds sterling. I am to[o] good an Englishman not to wish this piece of news to be authentic, as it has been sufficiently proved that this fortress is of no real use to us, but on the contrary puts us to a much greater expence than we can at present afford.

"We have been thus far very much delighted with our tour through Holland. At our entrance into this country every thing announced to us the riches and general ease of its inhabitants, and this spectacle was greatly heightened by the idea of the marks of misery and oppression we had left behind us in the deserts of Westphalia. But what particularly attracted our attention was the astonishing neatness and cleanliness of all the houses both great and small . . . I cannot give any idea of the societies, as, not having any letters of recommendation for Amsterdam or any other town through which I have passed, I was not admitted amongst them. The Dutch seem to me to be in general a very good kind of people in their own way, who understand speculation as well, if not much better than their neighbours.

"Your letter to Mr. D'Ivernois, which we yesterday received, gives me no account of Emelia,<sup>(3)</sup> though it makes me happy in the receipt of [news of] the better health of my dear mother. We intend setting off in three or four days for Brussels, and on

<sup>(1)</sup> Sir James Harris, afterwards Earl of Malmesbury, was British Minister at the Hague.

<sup>(2)</sup> Catherine II. of Russia.

<sup>(3)</sup> The news of Emelia Palk's death on the 14th August was doubtless withheld intentionally.

our way we shall pass through Rotterdam and Breda. We expect to arrive at Brussels in about a fortnight, when I flatter myself I shall have the pleasure of hearing from you . . .”

“LAWRENCE PALK.”

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 459.]

THOMAS ABRAHAM to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, September 18th, Calcutta.—“It is reported that Mr. Stables intends going home this season on one of the Indiamen. Mr. Macpherson will also go probably, in consequence of having lost his appointment, and having such little influence from his being only a Member of Council. The Governor, I suppose, will do anything now even without the Council. It is rather dangerous now, I believe, to say much about public affairs in consequence of the late orders from home, which I shall accordingly take care to pay attention to; indeed there is very little to say if one wished it.

“General Lang intends embarking for Europe this season in an Indiaman from hence that is to call at Madras. Mr. Jackson, son of the musician at Exeter I believe, is gone from Madras to China . . . and thence to England.” I have not yet met Ensign Preston.<sup>(1)</sup> He called on me once in Calcutta, but I missed him, and he left directly afterwards with Colonel Pearse’s detachment. Ensign Preston<sup>(2)</sup> of the Coast establishment was here some time ago. He proposed, after returning to Trichinopoly, to proceed to England to bring out his wife and children. I thank you for recommending me to Lord Cornwallis and Mr. Shore, and congratulate you on Miss Palk’s marriage.

“THOMAS ABRAHAM.”

[*Holograph*, 4 pp., 4to.]

[No. 460.]

CHOCAPAH to the Honble. SIR ROBERT PALK, Baronet.

1786, September 30th, Madrass.—“Sir Archibald Campbell is arrived here the 6th April last . . . According to the Company’s order a Board of Revenue and a Board of Trade were appointed, . . . the former consisting of Mr. Davidson as President, and Messrs. Oakeley, Moubray<sup>(3)</sup> and Haliburton<sup>(4)</sup> members; the latter consisting of Mr. Casamaijor as President, and Messrs. Hollond,<sup>(5)</sup> Hamilton and John Balfour<sup>(6)</sup> members; and the

(1) Ensign Henry Preston, Bengal Army, *Vide* No. 343, p. 336, note 1.

(2) Ensign William Preston, Madras Army. *Vide* No. 398, p. 370, note 1.

(3) George Moubray came to India in 1771 as a Senior Merchant with the fixed appointment of Accountant. He retired in 1792.

(4) David Haliburton, a Madras civil servant of 1770, was Persian Translator and Interpreter.

(5) Edward John Hollond, who entered the service in 1769, was eventually provisional Governor for a week in succession to his brother John Hollond.

(6) William Hamilton and John Balfour were Madras civil servants of 1766 and 1772, respectively.



Governor is to take his seat in both these Departments whenever he pleases . . .

“ Earl of Cornwallis arrived here with a commission for the Government of Bengall, and with a new one for Sir Archibald Campbell ” as Commander-in-Chief of the Coast army. Lord Cornwallis sailed for Bengal on the 31st August.

“ Hyder’s son Tippoo directed his war in another part of the world. He declared against the Nizam and Marattas, and has marched with a large army against Adoni, the capital of the late Basalat Jing. He invaded the fort, but was repulsed with great loss by Bassalat Jing’s son, who was in the fort with his family. The Nizam, hearing of Tippoo’s great army, dispatched a large force under the command of his brother Mokal Ally, assisted with a body of the Marattas horse, who were safely arrived into the fort of Adoni. But unfortunately for the Nizam the conductor of this large army came in such haste that he had not taken the usual precaution to bring provision sufficient for his army as well as [to] supply those in the fort, and exhausted the little provision that was in the fort in a few days after their arrival. When they found it difficult to get provision into the fort on account of Tippoo’s being on the frontiers of it, they thought it proper to evacuate the fort of Adoni, and marched with all their forces to the fort of Royachoor; and Tippoo immediately entered into the fort of Adoni . . . Tippoo, after this success, intends to march against Conoul, which if not timely succoured by the Nizam will, it is thought, fall into his hands . . .

“ Sir John Dalling will, I think, sail for England soon according to the orders of the Court of Directors. He is very sorry at the death of his son Lieut. Dalling, who died here the middle of this month. The Committee of Circuit, having examined the Circars under Vizagapatam, . . . are now in the Masulipatam district . . .”

“ ЧОКАРАН.”

[*Autograph, 4 pp., 4to.*]

[No. 461.]

MESSRS. PELLING & DE FRIES to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1786, October 14th, Fort St. George.—“ Although the Nabob paid very punctually his stipulated sum of sixteen lacks for last year, this Government has not compleated the payment due for the creditors’ share. We are promised a dividend soon . . . The Nabob was lately very ill, but he is now in a fair way of recovery, and continues his payments regularly. He sent us word by his Braminy to present his compliments to you his old friend.

“ Lord Cornwallis took possession of his Government on the 12th September. Mr. Shore was unwell: the damp climate of Bengal will be unfavourable to his asthmatick complaint.

“Tippoo and the Marattas are gone into winter quarters, to recommence their operations after the rains.

“The rate of bills granted by the Presidencies in India on the Company in liquidation of their debt is so low—7 shillings per pagoda for this place—that we don’t imagine much of their debt will be transferred to Europe.”

“PELLING & DE FRIES.”

[1 p., 4to.]

[No. 462.]

The REV. S[AMUEL] BADCOCK to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.,  
Bruton Street.

1786, October 19th, South Molton.—“I have frequently made enquiries after the health of Lady Palk, but the accounts I received were so very unfavourable that I was fearful of writing to you lest I should intrude on you . . . I most sincerely sympathize with you in the affliction you have lately gone through . . .

“Since my last I have received Hooker’s *Account of Devon* from Mr. Coffin’s library. What is valuable shall be transcribed. I expect Westcote’s *Description*<sup>(1)</sup> . . . that a copy of it may [be] procured for your collection. A very large folio of arms and genealogies is the only remaining MS. in Portledge<sup>(2)</sup> Library that respects the County.

“In Fuller’s *Worthies*, under the article of Devonshire, mention is made of a manuscript relating to the County written by ‘—— Northcote, Baronet.’ Fuller refers to it several times, and even gives some extracts from it. Bishop Nicholson,<sup>(3)</sup> however, in his *Historical Library* supposes that Fuller had confounded Northcote with Westcote, and then says in a punning way that ‘the author was often at a greater distance from truth than *North* and *West*.’ Yet Mr. Gough seems positive that Fuller made no mistake, and says that the late Sir Henry Northcote<sup>(4)</sup> (who practised physic and lived in the parish of Tawstock) had the manuscript in his possession that Fuller quotes, and intended to have published it with considerable enlargements. He further says that the MS. was afterwards in the possession of Mr. *Hesket*. I have desired Mr. Chichester of Hall to ask his relation Sir Stafford Northcote if he possesses any MSS. that may be worth transcribing relating to the County. The Mr. Heskett mentioned by Gough is supposed . . . to have been the same gentleman who some years since possessed Aldiscot near Torrington, now Mr. Rowe’s estate. What became of his papers I could never learn.

“I will take care to have the MSS. belonging to your collection bound in the way you have mentioned, and will superintend the business that no mistakes may be made . . .

(1) Thomas Westcote published a *View of Devonshire* in 1630.

(2) Portledge, near Bideford, the seat of the Pine-Coffin family.

(3) William Nicolson, Bishop of Carlisle.

(4) Sir Henry Northcote, Bt., M.D., (1655—1730).

"I have lately spent a fortnight at Colonel Simeoe's and at other places in the neighbourhood of Exeter; and then took the opportunity of writing to my uncle to inform him that I had at last come to a resolution to quit my office among the Dissenters. I explained my reasons, and then left him to judge whether I had not taken a right step. It was the step that my inclination, my judgment and my conscience equally concurred to dictate. . . . The risque I ran with my uncle I was well aware of, but I was resolved to hazard it . . .

"The Bishop hath offered me ordination, and was so obliging as to say that he considered me as a great acquisition . . . I told the Bishop that ordination was too serious a business to be determined on in haste . . . but it was probable that I should avail myself of his Lordship's offer next summer. I have no ambition of preferment. A *very* moderate competency is all I wish, and my prospects do not exceed a hundred a year. If I could secure that, I shall be perfectly resigned to the loss of my uncle's favour and fortune . . ."

"S. BADCOCK."

"P.S.—I am much with Sir John Chichester, who often, very often, speaks of you and Lady Palk with great friendship and esteem. I went to call on Sir Bouchier Wrey this week, but he and Lady Wrey were gone to Barley. We wished much to know how Lady Palk was: and Sir John (whom I shall see this afternoon) will rejoyce to hear that any favourable circumstance appears in her Ladyship's complaint."

[*Holograph*, 4 pp. *flscp.* and  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. 4to.]

[No. 463.]

G. BROWNE to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1786, November 8th.—"Mr. Ward's<sup>(1)</sup> last letters informed me that he had directed his agent at Calcutta to remitt money to engrave the Views of Hindoo Buildings, and I have in consequence been in daily expectation of it. None is yet received. So soon as I find myself in cash to carry the work into execution I shall give notice in the papers."

"G. BROWNE."

[*Holograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

[No. 464.]

THO[MA]S ABRAHAM to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

1786, November 12th, Calcutta.—"It is with extreme concern that I communicate to you the melancholy event since my last of the death of my poor friend Mr. Van Sittart, universally beloved, lamented and regretted, of which, as you will have no doubt very particular information, I shall quit the painful and

(1) Colonel Francis Swain Ward. *Vide* No. 396, p. 369, note 1.



disagreeable further relation by only observing the bad effects of too long a stay in this country, both in this and another recent instance . . .

"The bill I drew on my father for 150*l*. I hope has been honoured. I shall use my utmost endeavours to prevent any necessity for drawing again. I can live upon my present salary without running into any debt, which I shall always studiously take care to avoid : it hangs like a millstone about the neck of a young man, now certainly when there is so bad a prospect of ever being able to repay it. My salary has been reduced so much lately that I should imagine it will be cut no more, or that I may be able to get some little encrease to it . . ."

[*Holograph*, 3½ pp., 4to.]

"THOS. ABRAHAM."

[No. 465.]

THO[MAS] PALK to [SIR ROBERT PALK].

[17]86, November 14th, Trichinapoly.—"These few lines will be conveyed by the *Swallow* packet. By the *Manship*, which will sail from Madras about the 15th of next month, I shall have the pleasure to write you again. General Lang and family will go on this ship, and will have my children Kitty and Bob under their care. We are about setting off for Madras for that purpose. I shall write to Ashburton by that conveyance, though I have not heard from thence this year . . ."

[*Holograph*, 2½ pp., 4to.]

"THO. PALK."

[No. 466.]

ADRIAN DE FRIES<sup>(1)</sup> to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1786, November 20th, Fort St. George.—On the 16th instant I sent you a First Bill of Exchange for 2,000*l*. on account of Mr. Thomas Palk of Trichinopoly. I now enclose a First of Exchange drawn by the Governor and Council of Tranquebar on the Royal College of Economy and Commerce at Copenhagen for 1,856*l*. 5s., payable to your order for credit to Mr. Palk.

[*Autograph*, 1 p., 4to.]

"ADRIAN DE FRIES."

[No. 467.]

MESSRS. PELLING & DE FRIES to SIR ROBERT PALK.

1786, December 2nd, Fort St. George.—"The creditors of the Nabob have not received their last dividend from the Government yet to compleat their share of the annual payment of 16 lacks, which was fully paid by the Nabob in July last. The Company having sent out instructions to the Governor and

(1) The firm of Pelling & de Fries bore for a time the designation Adrian & John de Fries.

Council regarding the New Cavalry Loan<sup>(1)</sup> to make provision with the Nabob for the liquidation of it, the Governor and Council have thought proper to join this loan to the three former classes of creditors ; which being looked upon as an innovation, and contrary to the arrangement made with the Court of Directors under the sanction of Parliament, the Committee of Creditors have strongly remonstrated against it.

“ We beg leave to inclose you copys of two letters<sup>(2)</sup> written on this occasion, and hope from the justice of the Board of Control that the creditors will have satisfaction to their just complaint . . . We are convinced of your good inclination to render service to the poor creditors and for promoting the welfare of this Settlement, and shall therefore take the liberty to recommend their cause to your good offices . . .

“ We have nothing new. The war between the Maratta and Tippoo continue[s] without any extraordinary occurrence. Lord Cornwallis gives universal satisfaction at Bengal.”

[2 pp., 4to.]

“ PELLING & DE FRIES.”

[*Enclosure*].—Copy of letter dated Fort St. George, 24th November, 1786, from the Committee of the Three Classes of the Nawab's creditors to the Honble. Major General Sir Archibald Campbell, K.B., President and Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

With reference to our letter of the 21st instant, and to Mr. Secretary Chamier's reply intimating that Government have resolved to carry out the Court's orders “ by placing the debts of Colonel Sir Henry Cosby, <sup>(3)</sup> Lieut.-Colonel Dugald Campbell<sup>(4)</sup> and Mr. Doll ” in the same category as the creditors in the Cavalry Loan, we ask for reconsideration of this decision on the ground that it prejudices our rights and alienates in favour of others a public negotiable fund which is the property of our constituents.

(Signed) “ JOHN TURING, JAMES TAYLOR,  
EDWARD HOLLOND, PAUL BENFIELD,  
GEORGE MOUBRAY.”

[2½ pp., flscp.]

(1) The Cavalry Loan of 1769 was of Pags. 4,00,000 advanced by James Taylor, Andrew Majendie and James Call for the satisfaction of arrears of pay to the Nawab's troops.

(2) One letter only has been traced.

(3) Captain Henry Augustus Cosby commanded a battalion of native infantry in the first Mysore War, 1767-69. In 1774 he became Adjutant General of the Madras Army with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel, and three years later conducted a force against the Poligars of Chittoor. He afterwards served in the second Mysore war, and died in 1787.

(4) Dugald Campbell served in 1771 as a lieutenant in the 1st Madras Cavalry, and two years later he commanded the regiment at the siege of Tanjore. Colonel Campbell was afterwards in command of the four regiments of native cavalry which mutinied at Arnee in 1784. He must not be confused with Lieut. Dugald Campbell, who accompanied Killpatrick in 1756 to Bengal, where he was killed in the same year.

[No. 468.]

ENSIGN WILL[IA]M PRESTON to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.,  
London.

1786, December 19th, Trichinopoly.—“I did myself the pleasure of writing to you from Calcutta in July last. Nothing material has happened since but the death of Mr. Vansittart, whose loss is lamented by all who had the honor of his acquaintance. I returned here in October, and am . . . restored to the effective list, as I have declined all thoughts of visiting Europe till Mr. Palk returns. He tells me it will be in another year. General Lang has deferred going home this season. It's a disappointment to Mr. and Mrs. Palk not being able to send their children. We were on our way to Madras and within eighty miles, when Mrs. P. received intelligence from the General that he had changed his mind.

“The present Government renders our situation very satisfactory. Tippoo Saib and the Mahrattoes have lately had desperate actions, which terminated in favor of the latter . . .”

[*Holograph, 1½ p., 4to.*]

“WILLM. PRESTON.”

[No. 469.]

MESSRS. PELLING & DE FRIES to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1786, December 23rd, Fort St. George.—“At last the Government has made, on the 15th instant, the dividend to the Nabob's creditors to compleat the first annual payment on the present arrangement; and even this was made one half in money and one half in bills on Mazulipatam, which may occasion us some small loss . . . We inclose you a statement of General Lawrence's bond with the Nabob to 1st January, 1785 . . .”

We have pressed Messrs. Petrie and De Souza for a settlement of Goodlad's estate. They say that the bond creditors will shortly be paid in full, and that the book creditors will receive 60 per cent. of their claims. We enclose you a first bill of exchange for 1,000*l.*, being Pags. 2,500 at 8*s.* per pagoda, which is a very favourable rate.

“Publick affairs are in a good train. We are in peace with all the country Powers. The administration of Lord Cornwallis is acceptable to all Bengal, and must greatly recover the Company's credit by his great savings and good management. The Marattas and Tippoo continue at war, but nothing remarkable done on either side.”

[2 *pp.*, 4*to.*]

“PELLING & DE FRIES, &c.”

[No. 470.]

THE REV. SAMUEL BADCOCK to SIR ROBERT PALK, Bart.

1787, March 1st, South Molton.—“I was sorely disappointed in missing the opportunity of seeing you o' Tuesday, as I proposed and most earnestly wished, at Sir John Chichester's, but



a violent attack of the head-ach (my old and unconquerable enemy !) confined me all day to my bed at Hall . . .

“ I . . . beg that when you return to London you will be so obliging as to second my application to Sir George Yonge for any little thing that he may have it in his power to procure for me, as the time approaches when I wish to get orders, and I have no prospect from any other quarter. I have stated to Sir George my situation ; and as I have the History of the County greatly at heart, and will exert myself to complete it to the best of my power so as to make it a monument for futurity, I only want a present support to sit down without care ; and a little, a very little, will suffice. I shall then have leisure to prosecute my engagement with you in this great and arduous undertaking . . .

“ And as to yourself—my recompense hath exceeded not only my expectation but my desert.”

“ SAM. BADCOCK.”

“ P.S.—I will beg the favour of you to direct the enclosed to Mr. Beeke at Oxford<sup>(1)</sup> . . . ”

[*Holograph, 3 pp., large 4to.*]

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(1) Probably the Rev. Henry Beeke, Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, from 1782.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The fifth and final action between Hughes and Suffren was fought off Cuddalore on the 20th June, 1783. It was the action of the 12th April, 1782, which took place off Trincomalee.

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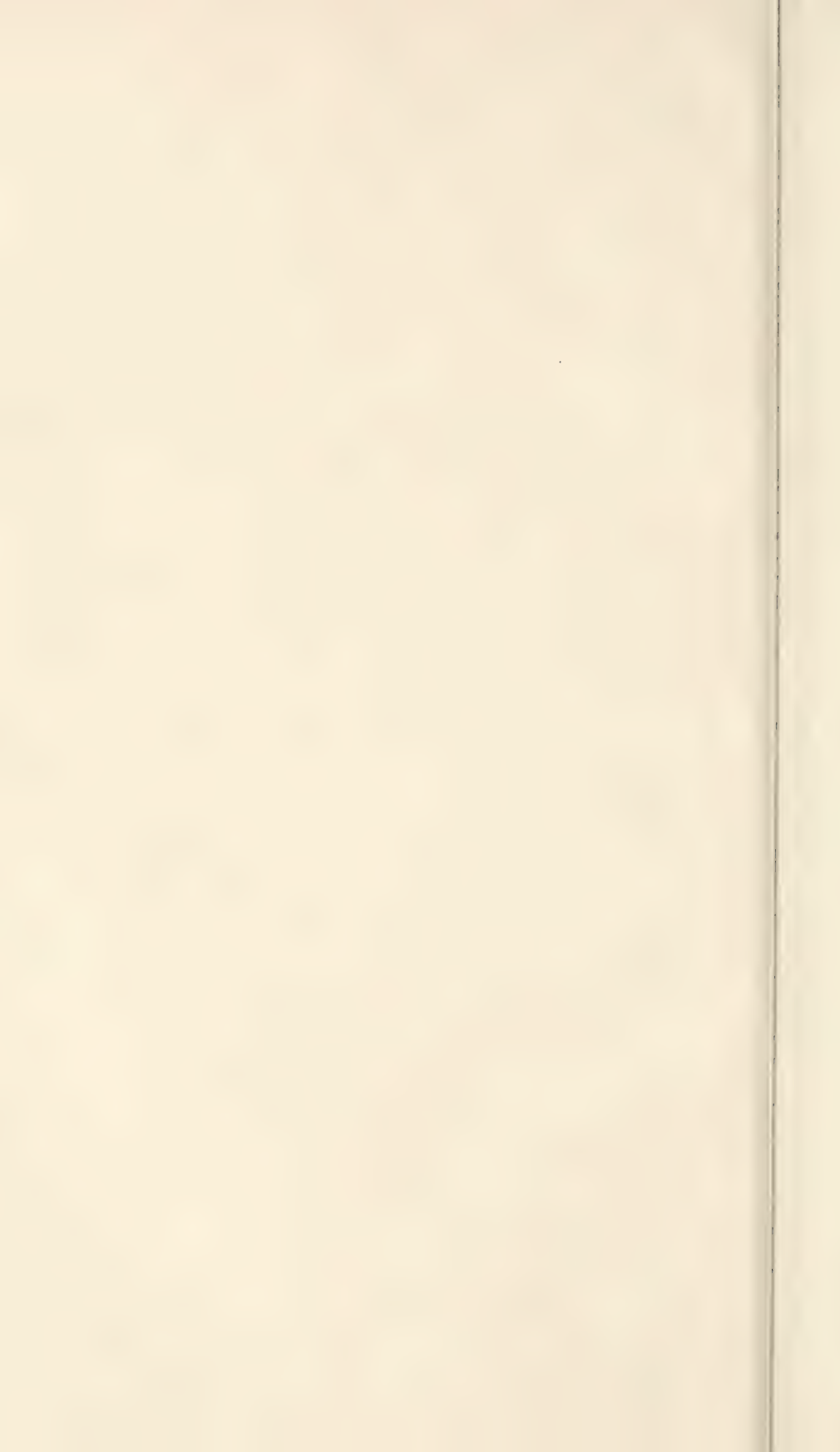


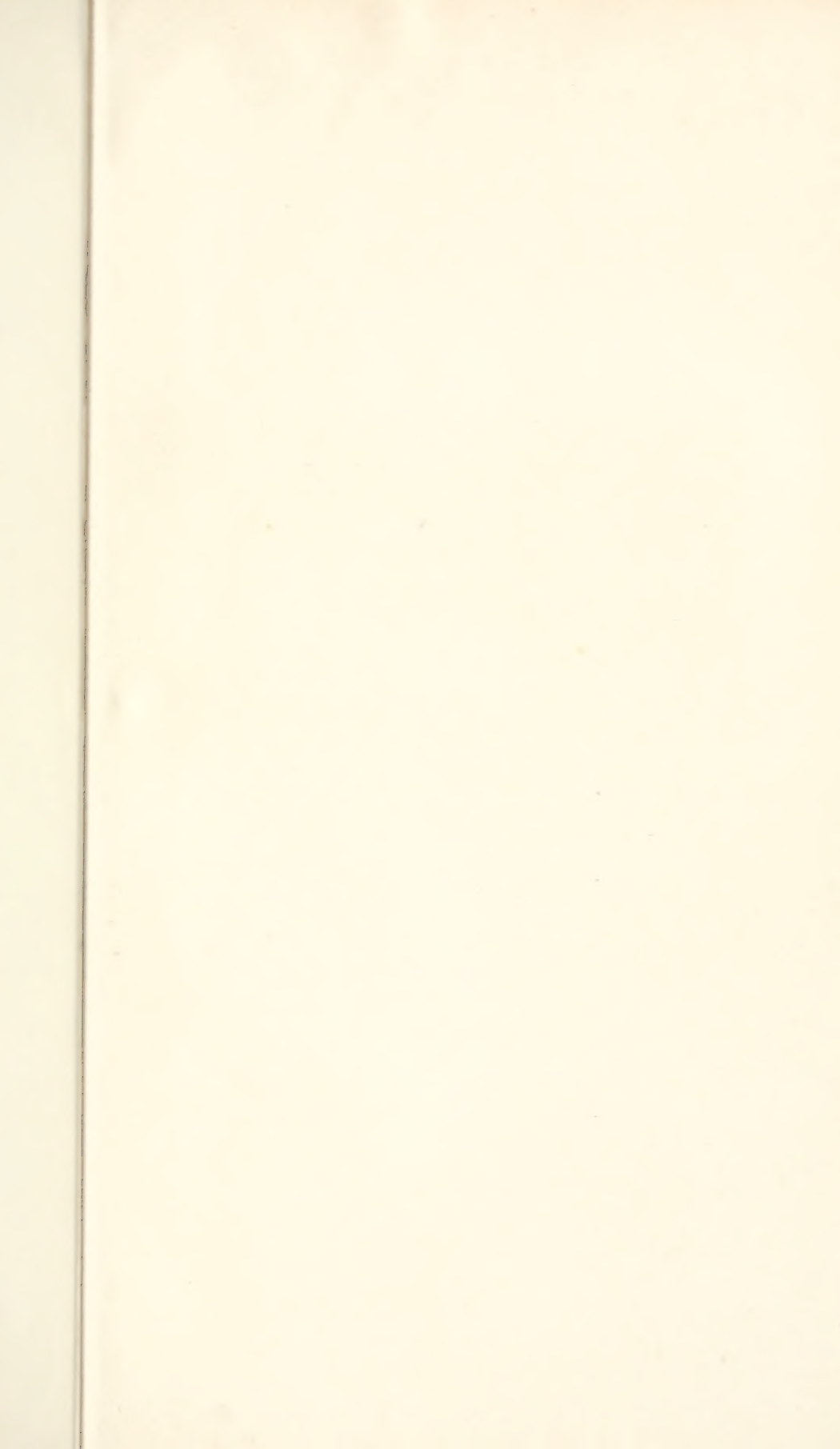
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